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LIVING WITH WILDFIRE IN TETON COUNTY, WYOMING: 2021 DATA REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wildfire affects many types of communities and is a particular concern for communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI), such as those of Teton County, Wyoming. The core intent of this project was to provide evidence to support the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) and affiliated organizations in their wildfire mitigation and education programming. This report analyzes existing wildfire risk data collected in fall 2020 and pairs it with social data collected in the winter and spring of 2021, in order to better understand residents' knowledge, experiences, and perceptions about wildfire risk. This greater understanding will help TAWPC focus its programs and outreach and ultimately promote increased mitigation and reduced wildfire risk in Teton County.

The results of the wildfire risk assessment, covering 725 private residential properties in the study area, suggest that 89% face high, very high, or extreme risk of wildfire. In comparison, only 41% of residents estimated their risk of wildfire to be high, very high, or extreme (fig. 2). This suggests a "gap" between rapid assessment and survey estimates.

Contributing to the risk assessment gap is the defensible space attribute. Most survey respondents (74%) thought they had at least 30 feet of defensible space, whereas rapid assessment estimated only 40% of properties to have more than 30 feet of defensible space. Furthermore, only 4% of survey respondents estimated their defensible space as less than 5 feet, while the rapid assessment placed 30% of properties in that category (fig. 10).

Results from the household survey suggest that survey respondents were aware of, and concerned about, the wildfire threat to their community. Despite low levels of direct experience with wildfire, respondents reported taking action to reduce risk, talking with neighbors about wildfire, and having many neighbors who are likewise taking action (figs. 19, 20, 21, 34). Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their property is at risk of wildfire, and most did not agree that firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect their home (figs. 24, 26). Importantly, few agreed or strongly agreed that local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect homes or keep wildfires from spreading—indicating an understanding of local fiscal constraints (fig. 25).

Survey respondents reported high levels of wildfire-related property maintenance activities. These activities included reducing vegetation on the property (89%) and mowing and raking around the home (89%). Around half (51%) have taken action to make their home more fire resistant (fig. 34). The majority of respondents indicated acceptance of wildfire risk mitigation activities on public lands, as well as adopting wildfire-related policies, specifically to apply to wildfire-prone areas in Teton County (fig. 35, 37). Less than a quarter (21%) were aware of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project; however, not all respondents live in proximity to the project (figs. 1, 36).

WHAT IS WiRē?

The Wildfire Research Center (WiRē[1]) works with wildfire practitioners seeking to create communities that are adapted to wildfire, through an evidenced-based approach. Historically, immediate threats and wildfire suppression have garnered much attention and resources. While these efforts remain critical, getting in front of the problem by promoting pathways to fire adaptation is of paramount importance. Fire adaptation is about living with wildfire. It's about creating safe and resilient communities that mitigate wildfire risk on their property before a fire, as well as supporting an effective response when fires threaten a community. It is also about allowing fire on the landscape when it is safe to do so.

Over the last decade, a team of researchers and practitioners, referred to as the WiRē Team, has developed and successfully implemented a systematic data collection and integration approach (the WiRē Approach) that informs local wildfire risk education efforts and allows for monitoring of community adaptation over time.

The implementation arm of WiRē is the WiRē Center, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support evidence-based community wildfire education efforts so that communities can live with wildfire. Specifically, the WiRē Center provides personalized expertise and support to collect, interpret, and use paired parcel level wildfire risk and social data. The WiRē Approach enables partners to effectively allocate resources and engage with residents. Leveraging lessons learned across projects, the WiRē Center pursues scientific approaches to inform conversations and decisions about wildfire adaptation.

Individual WiRē Team members maintain a connection with the WiRē Center by participating on the Center's Advisory Committee or as a member of the Board of Directors. In this capacity, the WiRē Team provides technical and strategic guidance to the WiRē Center, ensuring the WiRē Approach is implemented with exceptional quality and scientific integrity.

The WiRē Approach

Currently, the core of the WiRē Approach includes two central data collection efforts:

1. A property-level WiRē Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessment (hereafter, rapid assessment) collected roadside in 60 seconds or less by a trained wildfire professional. The rapid assessment is based on attributes related to access to the property, background fuels and topography, vegetation near the home, and building materials, and also includes an overall risk rating for the property. It is an indicator of the relative risk of the private property within the community rather than an absolute measure of risk.
2. Social surveys of the residents of the assessed properties, which represent residents' notions of wildfire risk, risk mitigation behaviors, including evacuation planning, and barriers and incentives to mitigate wildfire risk on private properties.

The WiRē Approach aims to empower the voice of wildfire practitioner partners. These partners both participate in the data collection process and share the results with their communities. Experience has demonstrated that sharing results with the community provides a common platform for constructive discussion about adapting to wildfire. During these discussions, wildfire practitioner partners can draw from data that reflect the entire community, not just the vocal few. To support these discussions and other partner goals, the WiRē Center summarizes local data and provides wildfire practitioner partners with the tools to act on research results. For some partners with a regional reach, the WiRē Center also works with partners to expand the WiRē Approach into new communities.

[1] Pronounced Wy-REE

At a broader scale, the WiRē Center manages, compiles, and analyzes data collected across communities to provide insights across space and time with respect to wildfire risk on private land and the characteristics, knowledge, and experience of the people who live on those properties. These data are an important contribution to the state of knowledge regarding private land and wildfire risk. In collaboration with the WiRē Team, the WiRē Center will advance understandings of effective pathways to community wildfire adaptation.

WiRē Partner: Teton Area Wildfire Protection Council (TAWPC)

"Teton County has a long history of collaboration with regional partners [to accomplish mutual goals]. Following the wildland fires in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of 1988, Federal, State, and local agencies began development of projects and programs that attempted to meet the wildfire risk reduction needs of each agency and the public at large. In the summer of 2004, the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) was formed [to share resources and information in reducing risk from wildfire.] … In addition to government partners' participation, individual citizens, local contractors, and representatives have joined TAWPC's work. … Current government partners involved in TAWPC and the revision of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) include Teton County, Wyoming, Town of Jackson, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Wyoming State Forestry Division, National Elk Refuge, Teton Conservation District, and Teton County Weed & Pest." [2]

The partners that make up TAWPC provide support to the community through several programs, at varying scales. This occurs both through the collective TAWPC efforts and the efforts of individual agencies that make up TAWPC. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS enforces the International Code Council (ICC) International Wildland Urban Interface Code for new construction in the mapped Wildland Urban Interface. Teton Conservation District provides Wildfire Risk Overviews (WROs), using National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as a basis for vegetation management and home hardening. The homeowners who act on the recommendations from the WROs are eligible for grants. The newly formed Teton Wildfire Ambassador Program, spearheaded by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, has developed a network of residents advancing wildfire risk reduction education. The ambassadors are educated with practices from NFPA, ICC, Ready Set Go! and other sources. These are just three examples of ways in which TAWPC, and the individual agencies within it, support community wildfire risk mitigation.

TAWPC also works collaboratively to share public outreach information and bring programs to the community. At a broad scale, TAWPC has written and revised a CWPP and is planning for another near-term revision. Another example of TAWPC's support has been in grant administration and planning and implementation of neighborhood scale Community Protection Program Grants. These grants fully cover the costs of designing vegetation management work for wildfire risk reduction purposes at the neighborhood scale, on nonfederal lands. Additionally, TAWPC members serve the community at the parcel scale through programs offering individual consultation on wildfire risk reduction practices. Similar programming is offered for private road vegetation management, with a goal of improving safety of ingress and egress.

Study Area: What Does the Community Look Like?

Teton County lies in western Wyoming just south of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. The county covers over 4,200 square miles; however, 97% of that is public lands, primarily U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and National Park Service land. As of July 2019, the population was

[2] Adapted from Teton County, Wyoming Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2014), TAWPC, p. 5. https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/documents/information/education-prevention/2014_CWPP_May20.pdf

estimated to be approximately 24,000. However, according to information collected from Teton County Emergency Management, during peak travel season for tourists, the region can contain 60,000 to 100,000 people in any given day.

The Teton County Wildland Urban Interface area is one of the highest fire risk areas in Wyoming. The existing forest fuels conditions and prevailing winds can create and push severe wildfire toward high-density residential areas located along boundaries with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. In 2017, the Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest started implementation of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project located west of the town of Jackson, Wyoming. The Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project was ongoing during the WiRē project. A priority objective identified within the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project involves removing dead vegetation, thinning trees, and influencing a change in wildfire behavior between the treated and untreated vegetation within the project boundaries, and adjacent to private land. Once completed, the treatments will help reduce the risks and cost of wildfire management during an unwanted wildfire in the project areas.

The WiRē study area is comprised of five distinct sub-areas along the eastern edge of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project (see fig. 1). Most sub-areas are located within 5 miles of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project, except for the Moran sub-area, which is approximately 30 miles away. The sub-areas were identified by members of the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition who were engaged with the WiRē team. Because some of the sub-areas have very few observations, this report focuses on the entirety of the study area.

The *Moran* sub-area, located in the northeastern section of the study area and farthest from the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project, includes Teton County land as well as private parcels interspersed throughout Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest. It includes the communities of Pacific Creek, Buffalo Run, Evergreen, and Wilderness Ranches. The Moran sub-area has community wildfire ambassadors who have been engaging with TAWPC for multiple years. Most of the neighborhoods in the area are heavily forested with spruce and fir, many lack two egress routes, and communications can be spotty. The area is serviced by a volunteer fire station with the nearest staffed fire station 30 miles away.

The second sub-area is the *Hoback Nation*. The Hoback Nation includes the communities of Rodgers Point, Deer Creek, Bryan Flats, and Camp Creek. This area includes agricultural lands, ranches, and older homes. Private parcels tend to be remote, sometimes with limited access, and communication is not guaranteed in a lot of the region. Hoback is serviced by a volunteer fire station, Station 3, with the nearest staffed station being 15 miles away.

The third sub-area is *Fall Creek Corridor*. This area includes the communities of Redtop Meadows, Fall Creek Ranch, Heck of a Hill, Indian Paintbrush, River Meadows, Butler Creek, Burcher, and Taylor Creek. The Fall Creek Corridor is where the bulk of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project is occurring. Most of the subdivisions along this area do have established homeowner associations or community wildfire ambassadors. There are many high value homes in this area and development continues to increase despite the area being threatened during the 2002 Green Knoll Fire. Radio communications are strong in this area, but cell service can be variable. The Fall Creek Corridor has two egress routes for 6 months of the year. Lack of snow removal closes the south access during the winter months. The Fall Creek Corridor is serviced by a volunteer fire station, Station 2, with the nearest staffed station being several miles away.

The fourth sub-area is *Skyline Ranches*. Skyline Ranches is less vulnerable to wildland fire than the other parts of the study area. Part of the subdivision is in the mapped wildland urban interface; however, the appropriateness of that can be debated. This area has undulating hills, wide corridors, and irrigated landscapes. Skyline Ranches has a hydrant system and sits between the two staffed fire stations, Stations 1 and 6.

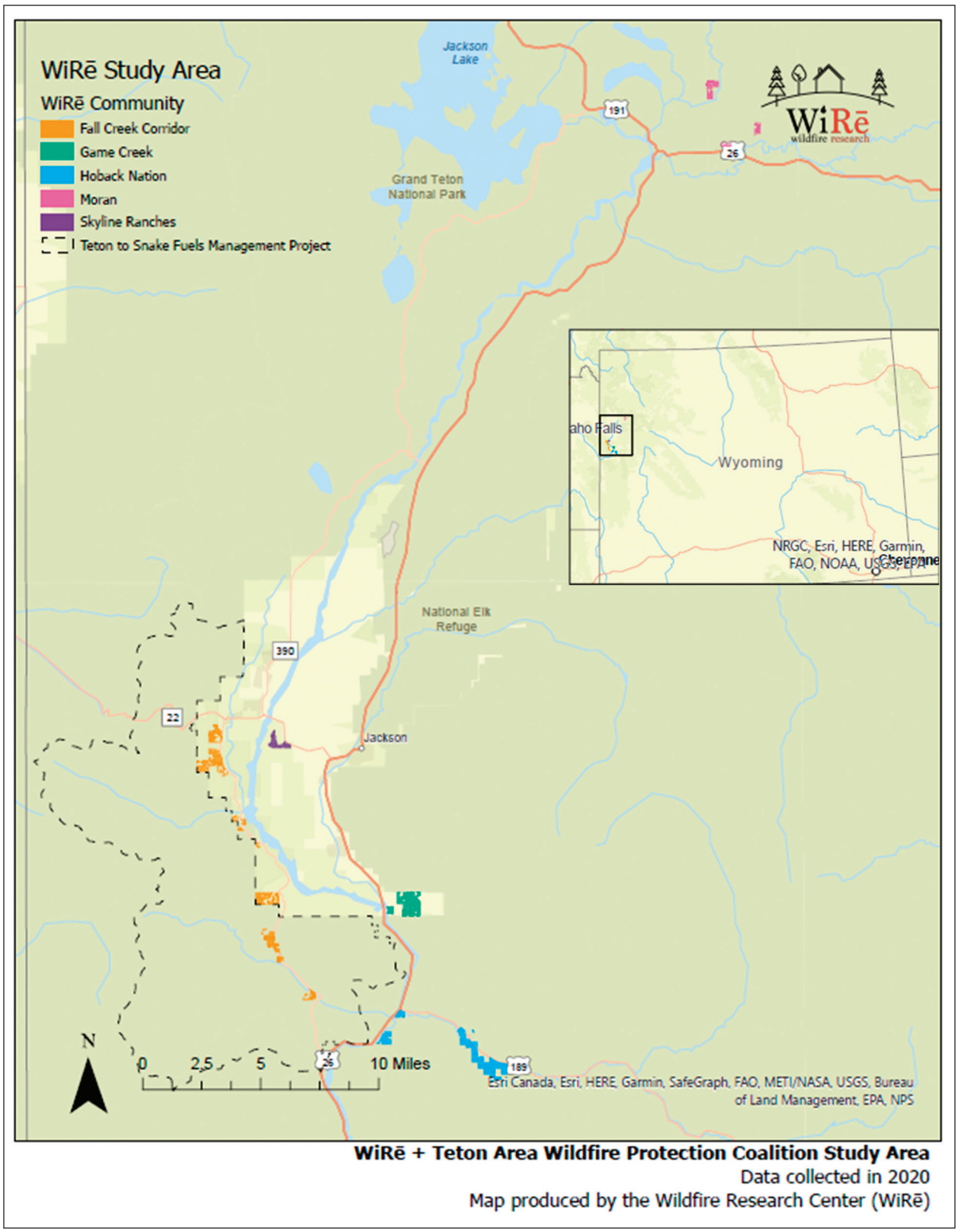

Figure 1—Map of community areas studied in Teton County, WY, by the Wildfire Research Center (WiRē) and Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC). Map image is the intellectual property of Esri and is used herein under license. Copyright © 2014 Esri and its licensors. All rights reserved.

The fifth sub-area is *Game Creek Ranch* subdivision located several miles south of the Town of Jackson. The lots in this area tend to be several acres, so defensible space is not a primary concern. However, the topography of the area and lack of secondary egress would make the homeowners vulnerable in a wildfire event. Access in this area is steep and narrow; it is unlikely a passenger vehicle and fire apparatus could pass alongside each other. Game Creek Ranch is serviced by a volunteer Station, Station 7 with the nearest staffed engine being 8 miles away.

METHODS: WHAT DID WE DO?

In the study area, TAWPC and WiRē implemented the WiRē Approach, a systematic approach to data collection that includes rapid parcel wildfire risk assessment and household survey data collection. The project launched with the mailing of an initial letter in July 2020 to inform residents of the upcoming activities. Please see Appendix A for correspondence materials.

Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments

Risk assessment data collection was conducted by TAWPC mitigation specialists as a census of all residential properties with a structure in the study area. The rapid wildfire risk assessments were conducted for 725 residential properties in fall 2020 using the standard WiRē Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessment (RA), which is comprised of a set of 13 attributes that includes access to the property, background fuels and topography, vegetation near the home, and building materials. Each attribute of the RA is evaluated relative to other private land parcels within the study area. As a result, the RA serves as an indicator of the relative risk of private land parcels within the study area, rather than an absolute measure of risk.

The 13 attributes are weighted and summed to produce an overall risk score for each parcel. The weights reflect the attributes' relative contribution to overall wildfire risk (see Appendix B for detail of attribute weighting). The overall risk scores are parsed into risk categories: low (20–240), moderate (241–305), high (306–435), very high (436–505), extreme (506–1000).

To ensure consistent, high quality data collection, WiRē wildfire practitioners conducted a virtual training for those who would conduct the rapid risk assessments. A standardized reference sheet for data collectors was available for use in the field.

All parcel level assessments were conducted on the property being assessed unless access was blocked by a gated driveway or posted with no trespassing signage. While environmental and situational variables may occasionally impact the rapid assessment data collection process, TAWPC is confident that the rapid assessments collected for this project provide an accurate representation of relative wildfire risk to the parcels in Teton County.

In instances when the mitigation specialist could not observe a risk attribute, the specialist selected "unknown/not observed." During data processing, these responses were assigned the highest risk score. For this project, many of the responses to the proximity to adjacent home question were coded as "unknown/not observed." WiRē used geospatial information systems (GIS) to calculate proximity to adjacent homes for the "unknown/not observed" cases.

Household Survey

Household surveys were mailed to the owners of all the residential properties for which rapid risk assessments were conducted.[3] The survey contained the standard WiRē questions along with some questions tailored for the study area. This process was done collaboratively by WiRē and TAWPC.

Household survey data were collected using a modified Dillman approach[4] that includes three mailings after the initial letter announcing project activities and the data collection efforts (see table 1 for survey administration timing; see Appendix A for correspondence materials). The first mailing was a survey packet containing a cover letter, a household survey, and a postage-paid and addressed return envelope. The second

[3] As part of the WiRē Approach, one survey is sent to each individual homeowner in the study area. If an individual owns multiple properties, they receive only one survey with a prompt to select a specific property address. As a result, the number of household surveys mailed out is different from the total number of rapid assessments conducted.

[4] For details, see Dillman, Don A. 2000. Internet and mail surveys: the tailored design method, 2000. New York: John Wiley. 480 p.

Table 1—Timing of the household survey administered to residents of Teton County, WY, by the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) and the Wildlife Research Center (WiRē) to collect information for assessing wildfire risk.

Mailing	Date of mailing
Initial letter	7/7/20
First survey package	1/4/21
Postcard reminder	1/28/21
Second survey package	3/5/21

mailing was a reminder/thank you postcard that was mailed to the entire mailing list approximately one month after the initial survey packet. The final mailing was a second complete survey packet with an updated cover letter mailed to nonrespondents approximately 1 month after the reminder postcard.

This process resulted in 258 completed surveys and a 38% response rate.

Paired Rapid Assessment and Household Survey Data

All of the data from the 725 rapid assessments and 258 household surveys were compiled into a dataset (740 records) containing three types of data: properties for which we have both rapid assessments and household surveys (243 records), properties for which we have only a rapid assessment (482 records), and properties for which we have only a household survey (15 records). For statistical comparison of these different groups of data, please see Appendix C. The paired rapid assessment and household survey data are the foundation for the results presented below.[5]

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were used to evaluate the differences between rapid assessment and household survey data. The type of statistical test used is a Wilcoxon matched-pair signed-rank test, which tests the hypothesis that the matched pairs (i.e., the parcels for which we have both rapid assessment and household survey data) follow the same distributions for both the rapid assessment and household survey datasets. For both tests, a p-value less than 0.05 suggests that the compared distributions are different. However, it is important to note that while two distributions may be statistically different, that does not necessarily mean the two distributions are meaningfully different (i.e., the difference is notable or actionable).

[5] Any differences between the numbers reported here and the Household Survey Codebook (Appendix D) should be minor and the result of rounding.

RESULTS: PAIRED WIRĒ RAPID ASSESSMENT AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Community Risk

The rapid assessment ratings for all 725 property risk assessments conducted in Teton County showed that 3% were characterized as low risk, 8% as moderate risk, 38% as high risk, 17% as very high risk, and 34% as extreme risk.

Rapid Assessment Attributes: Observed in Wirē Rapid Assessment vs. Self-Assessed by Household Survey Respondents

Below, the rapid assessment data and household survey data are compared by looking at the overall wildfire risk rating and the results for each attribute. The rapid assessment data used in this section represent only properties for which a household survey was returned.[6] The sections are organized by overall risk and then risk categories of access, home ignition potential, defensible space, and background conditions.

Overall Wildfire Risk Rating

In order to better understand the perspective of study area owners, household survey respondents were asked to provide an overall assessment of their property's risk, after having self-assessed their property based on the 13 attributes described in the following sections. The survey question provided a five-point scale: low, moderate, high, very high, or extreme risk.

The survey's overall rating scale matches the rapid assessment overall rating scale; however, unlike the survey overall ratings, the rapid assessment overall ratings were calculated as the sum of each individual attribute score.

Respondents were more likely to rate their properties' risk as low or moderate whereas the rapid assessment was more likely to rate properties as high, very high, or extreme risk. See figure 2.

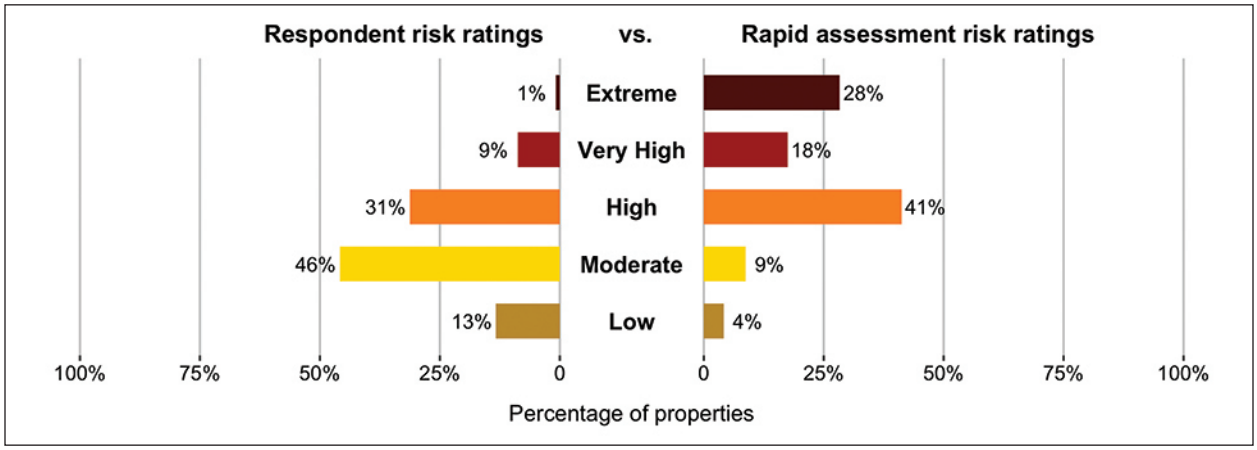

Figure 2—Distribution of overall wildfire risk rating for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of ratings obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 240 respondents to this survey question.

[6] In order to explore whether the subset of properties for which a household survey was received are representative of the larger community, the distribution of WiRē Rapid Assessment risk ratings for the 243 properties that returned a survey was compared to the distribution of WiRē Rapid Assessment risk ratings for the properties that were sent a survey (the size of this latter subset is complicated by the 10% of homeowners who own multiple properties). The distribution of risk ratings for the properties that returned a survey and the distribution of risk ratings for properties that were sent a survey are statistically different, using a Wilcoxon matched-pair signed-rank test. However, there is no meaningful difference between these two distributions.

Access

During a wildfire, the ability for emergency responders to safely locate and access a property, as well as the ability for residents to evacuate, is critical. During a wildfire, evacuation routes could be blocked, limiting a resident's ability to move to a safe area. The following four attributes relate to access.

Address Visible

When firefighters receive notice that a house is in immediate danger from wildfire, every second spent finding the property is crucial. Easy identification of a property's address can speed up the process. In Teton County, properties were evaluated based on whether the address was posted at the driveway entrance and thus visible from the road, and whether the address was reflective and thus visible during heavy smoke or in low light.

Few (8%) property addresses were both posted at the driveway and reflective, and nearly three quarters (73%) were posted but not reflective. Compared to the rapid assessment, a few more survey respondents (13%) thought they had a posted and reflective address, and fewer thought their address was posted but not reflective (61%). Despite these differences, these distributions are not statistically different. See figure 3.

Ingress/Egress

Access to and from a property is determined by the available road system. Properties were evaluated based on having one or two (or more) roads in/out of the community. Parcel evaluators defined this type of road as one that allows a resident to exit their neighborhood and access a main road out of the community.

Ninety-five percent of properties in the paired dataset have just one road in or out of their community; just 5% have multiple roads in or out. Fewer respondents (83%) reported just one road in or out of their community, indicating that some respondents believe there are more evacuation routes than there are. However, this disparity may be due to respondents' inclusion of roads within the community (e.g., a secondary access road to the highway or a second road within their neighborhood), rather than just roads in or out of the entire community. See figure 4.

Driveway Clearance

Firefighting vehicles can be much larger than regular vehicles, and thus require more space to safely maneuver during a wildfire. A driveway with overhanging tree branches might block the entrance of a tall vehicle or pose a risk if the tree catches on fire. A narrow driveway, such as one lined by trees or with a narrow gate, makes it difficult for two firefighting vehicles to pass each other. Thus, assessment of driveway clearance includes both height and width standards: vertical clearance above the driveway must be at least 13.5 feet, and the driveway must be at least 20 feet wide. Width refers to horizontal obstruction-free clearance that would permit vehicle access, not just road base. For example, if the driveway road base is 12 feet wide and bordered by flat ground that could easily be driven on by any firefighting vehicle, with no obstructions for at least 4 feet on each side (20 feet total), the driveway meets the width standard.

Over half (58%) of properties in the paired dataset meet both height and width clearance standards, and almost a third (31%) meet one of the two standards. In comparison, fewer survey respondents (50%) thought they met both standards, and 45% of respondents thought they met at least one standard. However, these distributions are not statistically different. See figure 5.

Driveway Length

This attribute evaluates both driveway length and the presence of a turnaround that allows an emergency vehicle to reverse its direction after arriving at the house. The length of the driveway is important because the longer the driveway, the more risk of fire exposure for emergency responders. The turnaround is important both for fire personnel safety and because many firefighting activities require the use of the rear of the vehicle. Over half (53%) of properties fall into the safest category, a driveway of 150 feet long or less, and

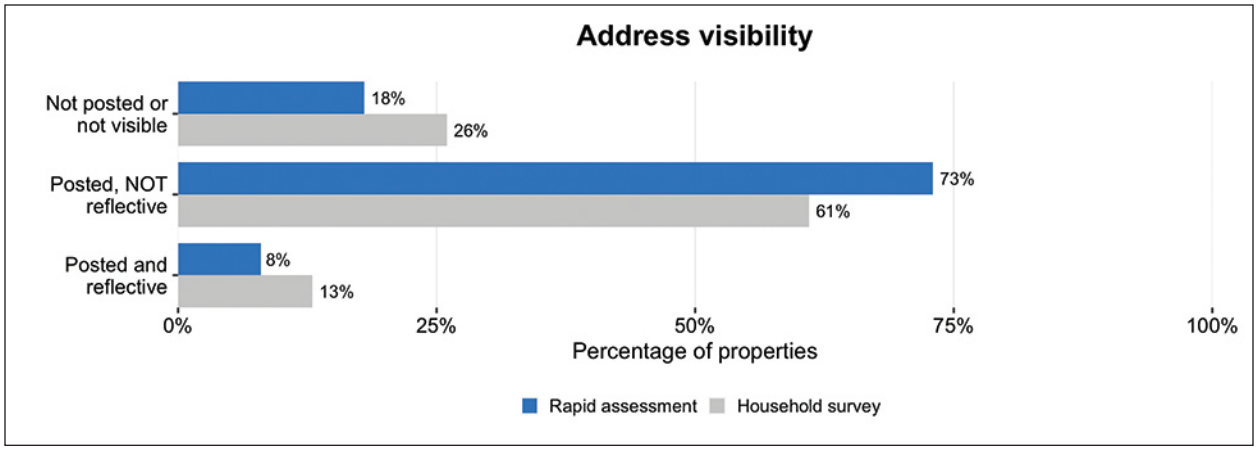

Figure 3—Visibility of property address for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 233 respondents to this survey question.

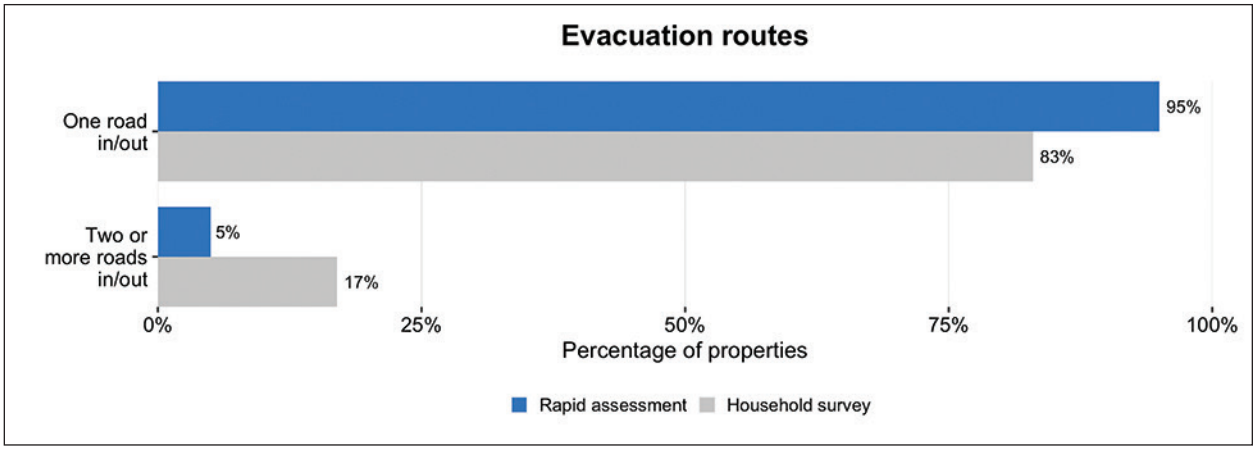

Figure 4—Number of evacuation routes in or out of the community, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 238 respondents to this survey question.

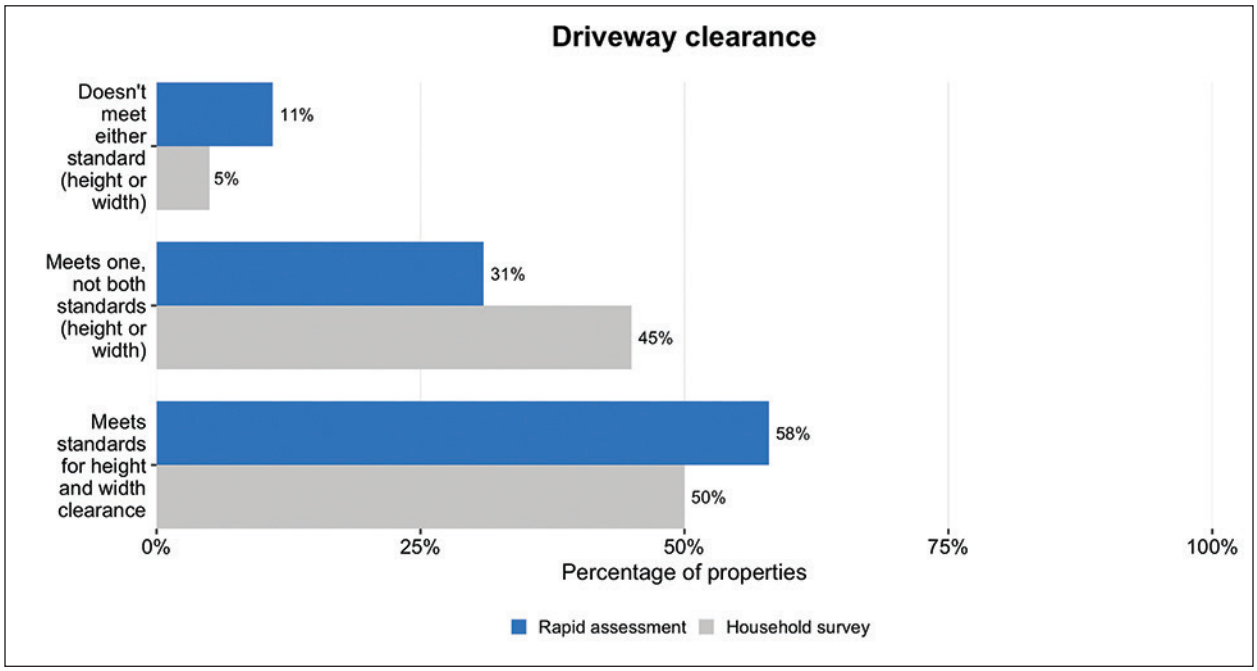

Figure 5—Properties whose driveway meets clearance standards for height (at least 13.5 feet) and width (at least 20 feet), for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 219 respondents to this survey question.

a quarter (25%) of properties have driveways longer than 150 feet but do have a turnaround. Less than a quarter (22%) fall into the riskiest category. In comparison, many more survey respondents (40%) thought they had a longer driveway with a turnaround. This disparity might be accounted for either by respondents who overestimated the length of their driveway, or by respondents who thought they had an adequate turnaround but did not, according to the rapid assessment. However, these distributions are not statistically different. See figure 6.

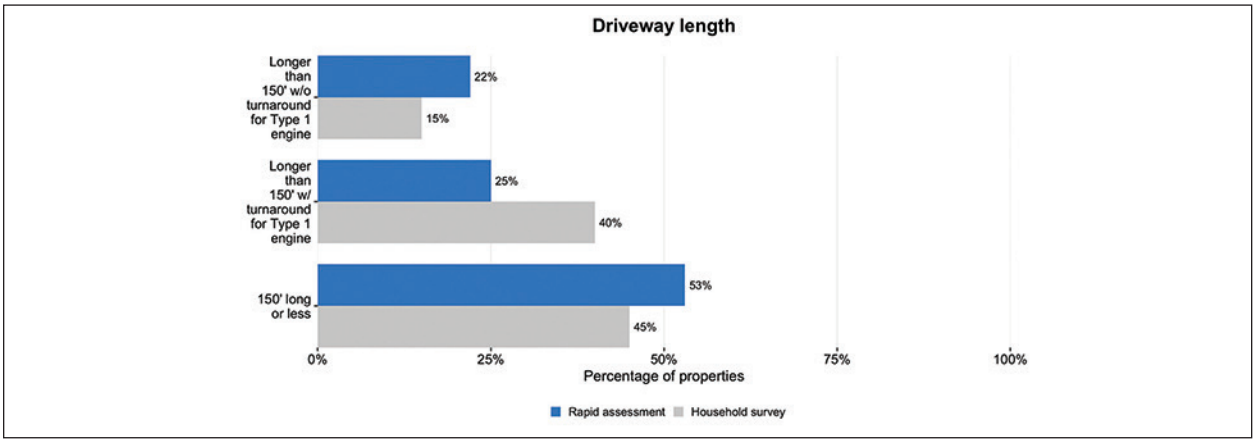

Figure 6—Driveway length and presence of a turnaround, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. Type 1 engine refers to an emergency vehicle. N = 229 respondents to this survey question

Background Conditions

Background conditions at the parcel level affect a property's wildfire risk. These conditions include dangerous topography, overall slope of the property, and the density of nearby vegetation, each of which are described below.

Dangerous Topography

Topography is one of the three main factors that influence wildland fire behavior. It is well documented and understood that certain topographic features, such as ridges, chimneys, narrow canyons, and drainages are known to dramatically increase fire behavior (rate of spread, flame length, etc.). As such, homes that are located close to and in direct alignment with these features are at significantly higher risk than homes that are situated back and away from such features.

Almost half (47%) of properties are more than 150 feet away from dangerous topography, the least risky category. However, more than a quarter of properties (28%) are less than 50 feet away, or between 50 and 150 feet away (26%). Notably, the majority (80%) of survey respondents reported that their property was more than 150 feet away, suggesting that respondents believe they are farther from dangerous topography than the rapid assessment indicates. See figure 7.

Slope

The slope of the land on which a home is located can also affect its wildfire risk. Wildfire tends to burn more quickly when moving up a steeper slope. Furthermore, very steep slopes can limit firefighter access. Respondents were asked to estimate the slope of their property, with the aid of a diagram printed on the survey to visually demonstrate different slopes. Rapid assessment data categorize more than double the number of properties as having a steep slope, compared to survey respondent data (23% vs. 10%). Relatedly, less than half of properties (40%) had a gentle slope; however, 57% of respondents reported that their property had a gentle slope. See figure 8.

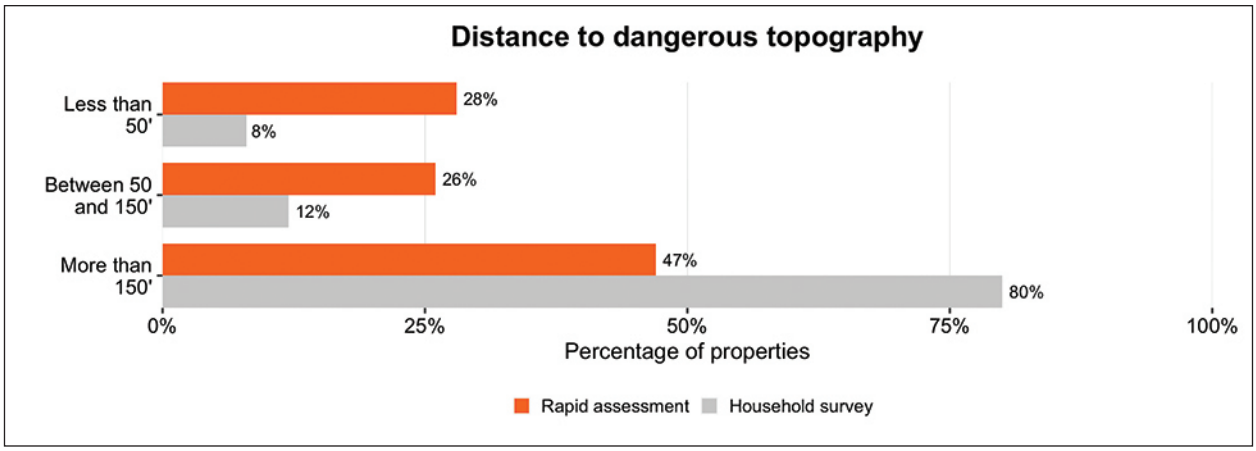

Figure 7—Distance of home to dangerous topography (e.g., ridge, steep drainage, narrow canyon), for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 242 respondents to this survey question.

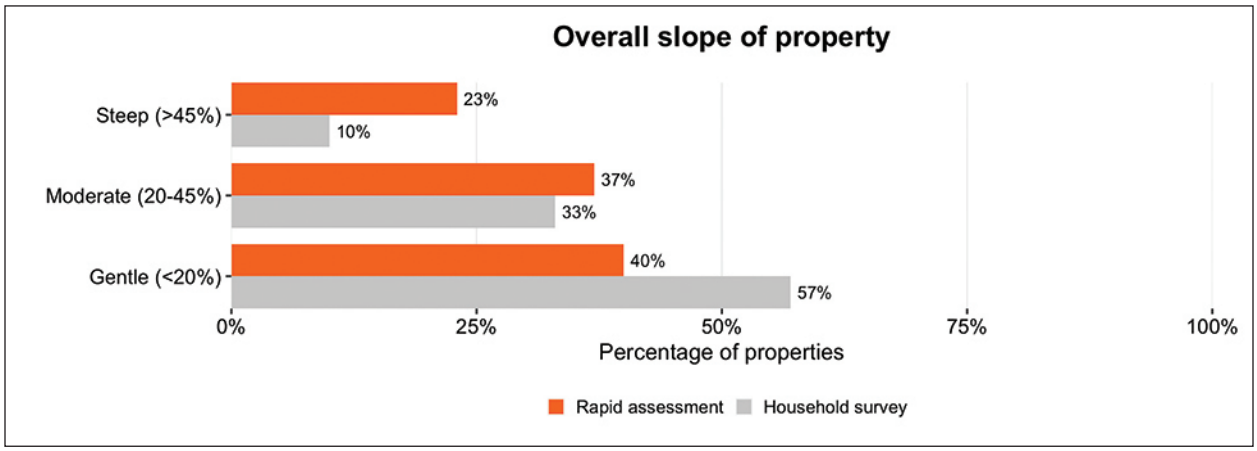

Figure 8—Overall slope of property, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 239 respondents to this survey question.

Density of Vegetation

High-density vegetation near a home can increase wildfire risk to the home. Respondents were asked to estimate whether the majority of vegetation on their property and properties immediately surrounding would best be described as "Grasses and scattered shrubs with minimal dead wood," "Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees; occasional low hanging branches and dead wood," or "Dense shrubs and low hanging branches; continuous evergreens and moderate dead wood." The rapid assessment scored properties based on whether that property and properties immediately surrounding had light, moderate, or heavy vegetative density.

The rapid assessment scored 38% of properties as having dense vegetation. Notably, only 11% of survey respondents placed their property in that category. Relatedly, 16% of properties fall into the light vegetation category, but survey respondents placed more than double that amount (38%) into that category. See figure 9.

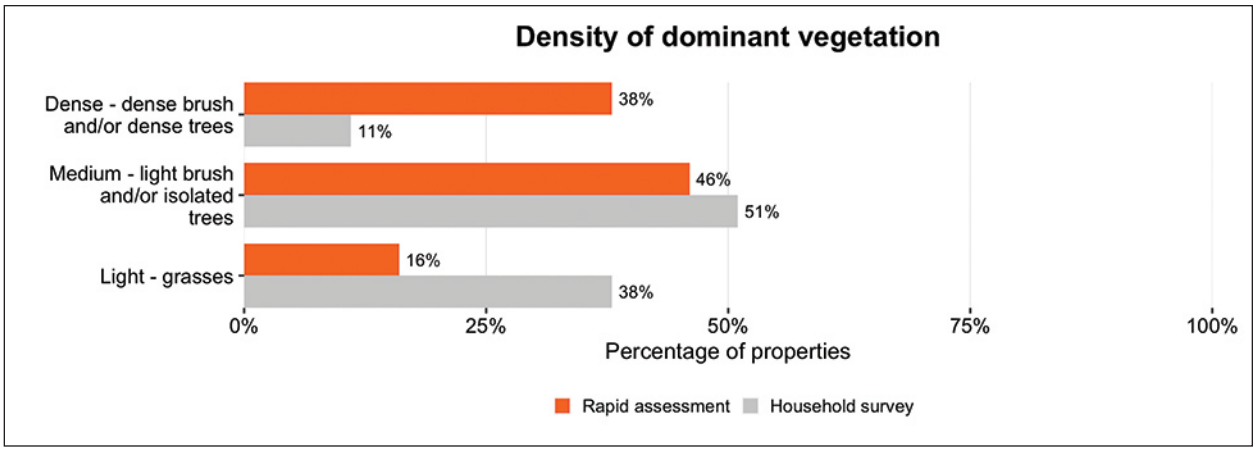

Figure 9—Type and density of vegetation around the home, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 240 respondents to this survey question.

Defensible Space

Vegetation and other combustible materials near or touching the home can play a large role in home ignition, as they can catch fire and pass the flames to the home. The following two attributes relate to defensible space.

Defensible Space

The quality of the defensible space around the home, in addition to the home's ignition potential, form the home ignition zone. Continuous or connected fuels within the home ignition zone increase the home's risk for damage by wildfire. Flammable or abundant vegetation near the home may catch on fire and spread the fire to the home. To best prepare a home for wildfire, at least 100 feet of defensible space is generally recommended.

Few homes (9%) had more than 100 feet of defensible space. Many more survey respondents reported this to be the case (33%). Nearly a third (30%) of homes had less than 5 feet of defensible space. No survey respondents reported this to be the case. These results suggest that some respondents believe their defensible space to be larger than it is. See figure 10.

Combustible Materials Other Than Vegetation Within 30 Feet

Beyond vegetation, other combustible materials within 30 feet of the home can also affect the quality of defensible space.

The nearest combustible materials, other than vegetation, were 30 feet or less from the home in the majority (86%) of properties in the paired data. However, only 55 percent of respondents reported that the nearest combustibles, other than vegetation, were less than 30 feet from their home. See figure 11.

Home Ignition Potential

The design of a structure and the building materials utilized in its construction play a significant role in the ignitability of a home in a wildfire event. The following four attributes relate to home ignition potential.

Roof

Roof material has been shown to have a dramatic influence on the ignitability of a residence during a wildfire. Roof covering such as metal, tile, or asphalt composition shingles resist ignition to wildfire, while combustible materials such as wood shingles can catch on fire easily.

Most (78%) of the roofs in the paired dataset were noncombustible. Slightly more respondents (84%) reported having a noncombustible roof. See figure 12.

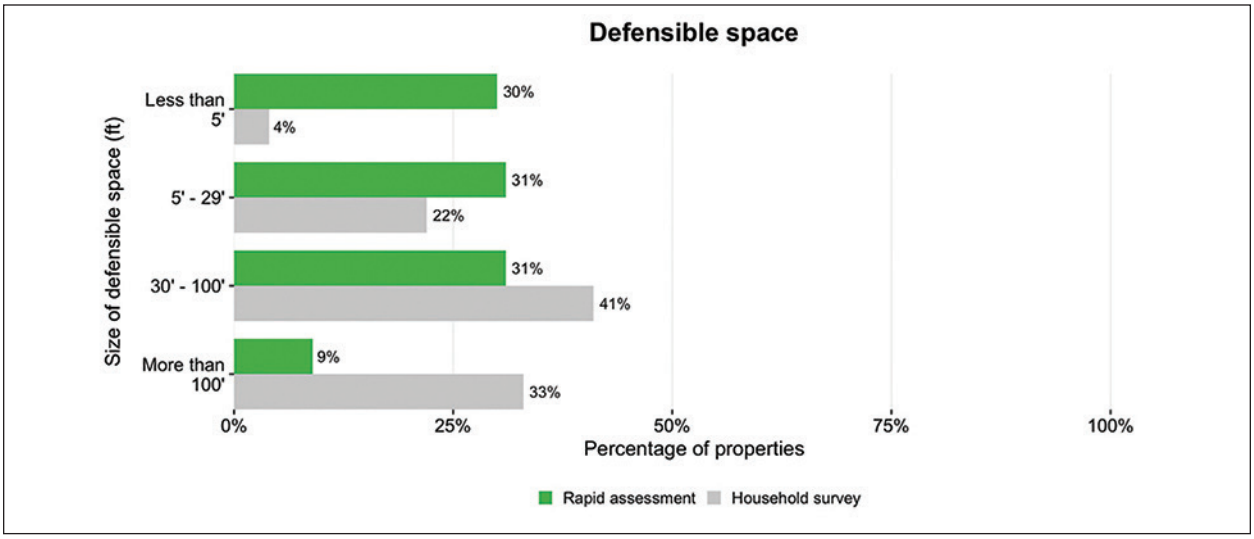

Figure 10—Defensible space, categorized by distance between the home and dense vegetation, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 240 respondents to this survey question.

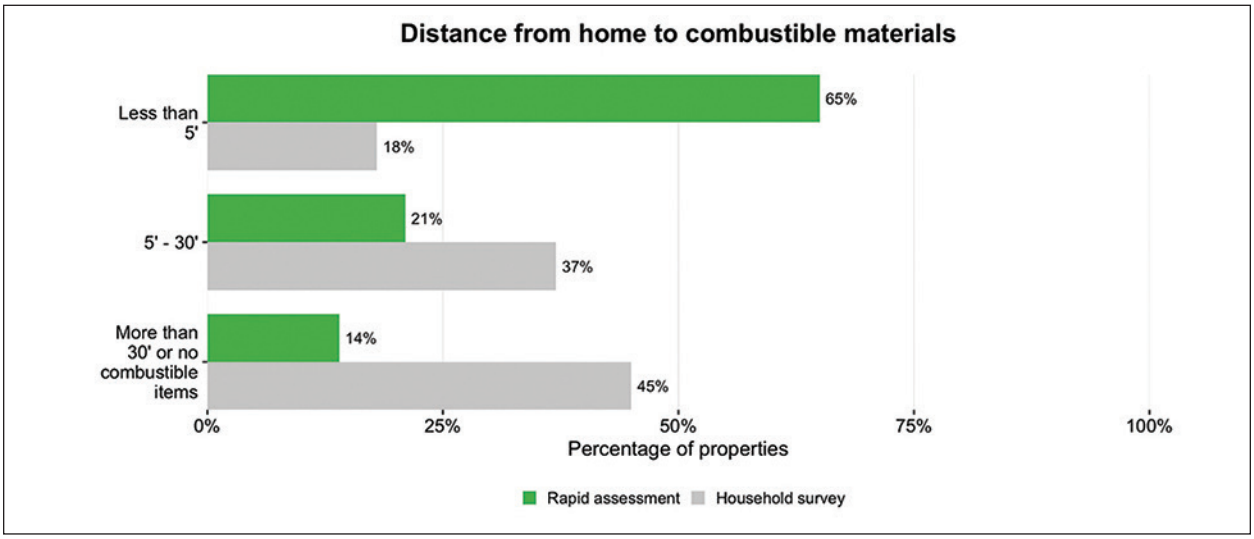

Figure 11—Distance from home to combustible materials other than vegetation, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 240 respondents to this survey question.

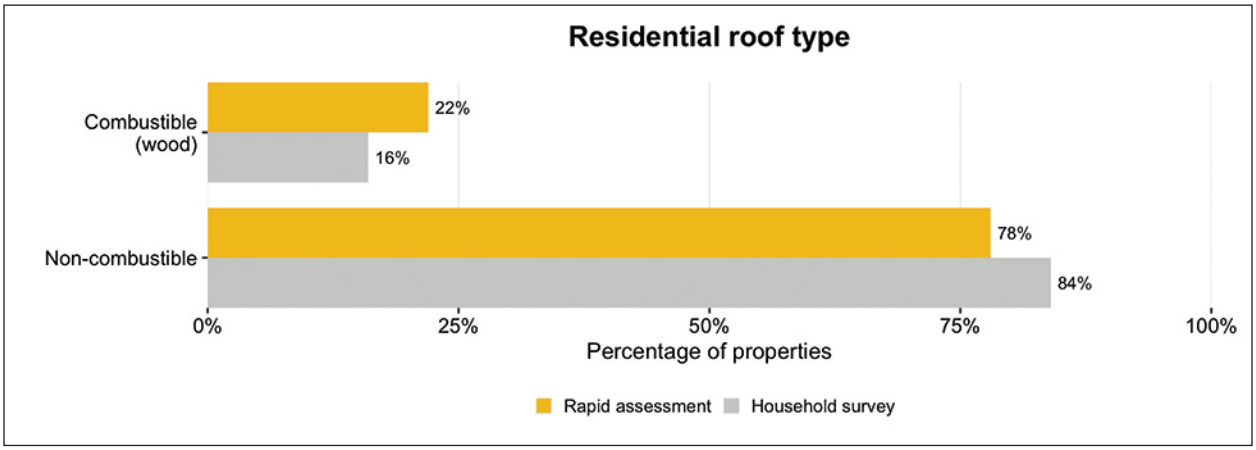

Figure 12—Combustibility of residential roof type, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 239 respondents to this survey question.

Siding

The design, materials, and construction of a structure's exterior walls have an impact on the ignitability of a home during a wildfire event. Wood siding that is unmaintained and has noticeable gaps is more receptive to trapping blowing embers than noncombustible materials like metal or stucco. Siding is categorized here as low risk or noncombustible (e.g., stucco, brick, stone), medium-risk of combustion (log or heavy timbers), or high risk of combustion (wood or vinyl).

Across the paired dataset, the majority (67%) of homes had high-risk siding. The same number of respondents (67%) placed their siding into the high-risk category. The distributions of RA and survey data are not statistically different for this attribute. See figure 13.

Decking and Fencing

Building materials used for the construction of attachments to the structure (e.g., decks, fences) present a significant ignition vulnerability due to the expansive surfaces that are exposed to wind-driven embers, the ability for attachments to trap embers, and the associated convective and radiant heat. The rapid assessment evaluated whether homes had combustible attachments (e.g., made of wood or composite) or no combustible attachments. Survey respondents reported whether they had a combustible balcony, deck, porch, or fence attached to their house. Due to a lack of information about attachment materials, as reported by the survey, an attachment reported as noncombustible is categorized as moderately combustible.

Across the paired dataset, the majority (95%) of homes had attachments made of combustible materials. Respondents reported slightly lower levels of combustible attachments. See figure 14.

Proximity to Adjacent Structures

Home to home ignitions (i.e., conflagration) are a significant factor in the spread of fire through more densely built environments. Homes and structures are generally built with combustible materials and contain gutters, porches, and other vulnerable locations where embers can get trapped and combust, and then pass the fire to neighboring properties.

More than half (52%) of homes are more than 100 feet from the closest neighboring home, the safest category. Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents thought the closest neighboring home was more than 100 feet away. See figure 15.

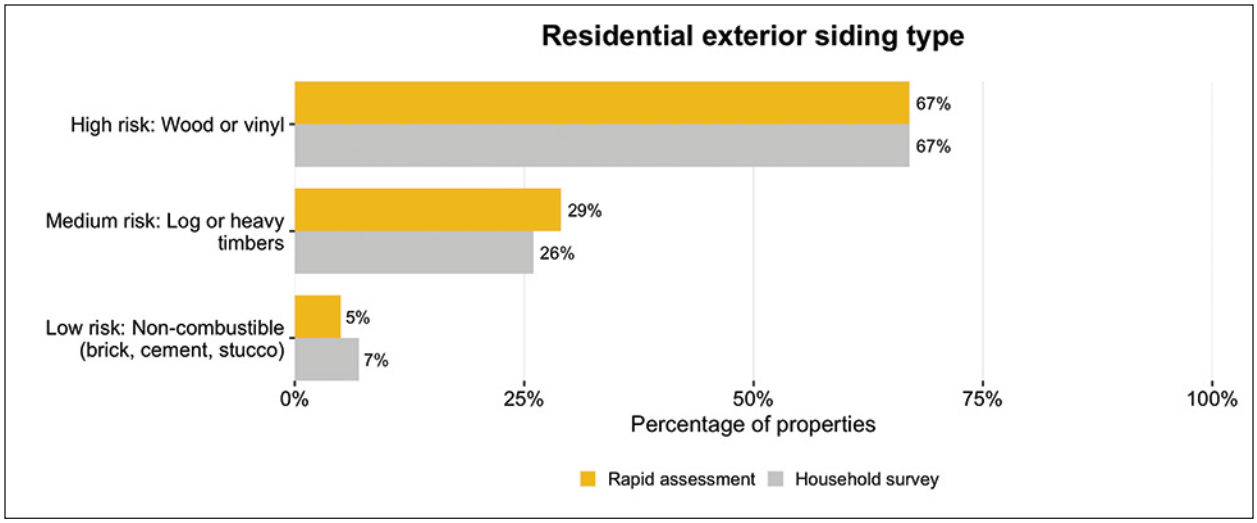

Figure 13—Residential exterior siding type, categorized by material into low, medium, and high-risk categories, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 199 respondents to this survey question.

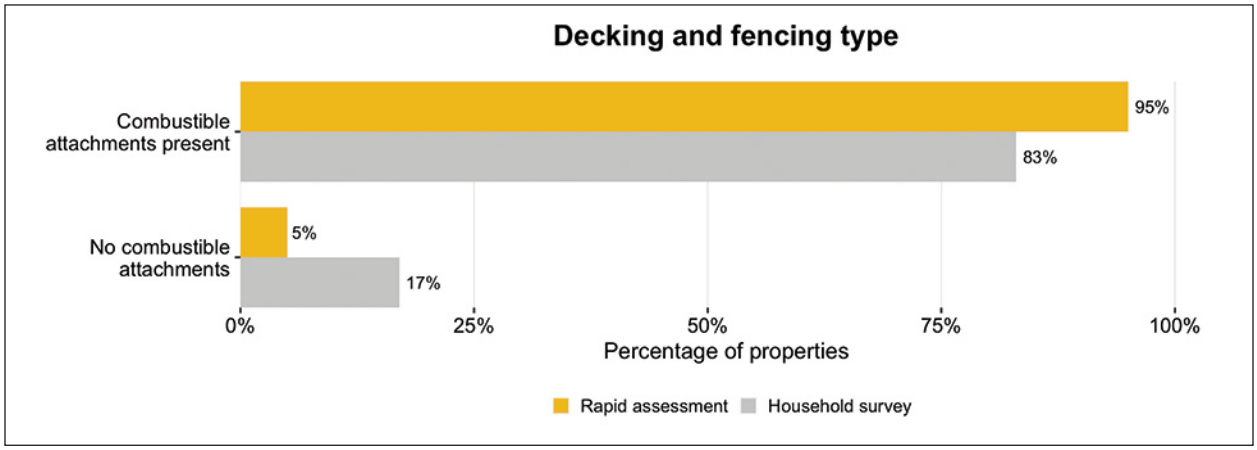

Figure 14—Residential attachments (e.g., deck or fence) categorized by combustion risk, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 242 respondents to this survey question.

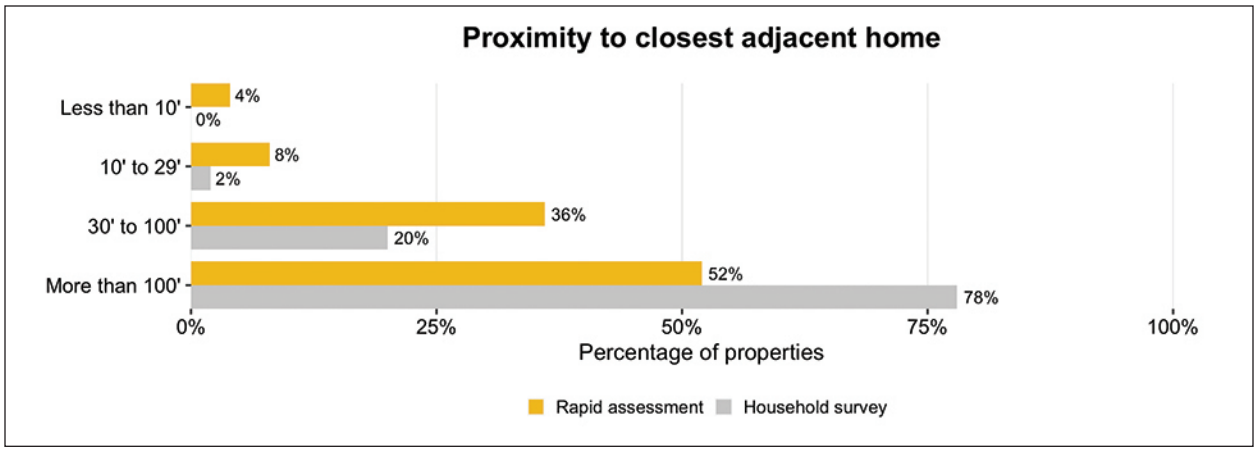

Figure 15—Distance to adjacent structures, for study area properties in Teton County, WY. Comparison of information obtained through household survey versus rapid assessment. N = 241 respondents to this survey question.

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF WILDFIRE IN TETON COUNTY—HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

The respondents' homes were built as long ago as 1876 and as recently as 2021, with an average year built of 1986. Respondents moved into their home as long ago as 1947, with an average move-in date of 2001, more than 20 years ago.

Most respondents (72%) occupy their residence every month of the year. Few respondents (13%) occupy their Teton County residence fewer than 6 months per year. Most residences (99%) are owner occupied. Only 1% of respondents were renters. See figure 16.

More than half the respondents were male (63%), and the average respondent age was 62 years. Forty percent of respondents were retired, while 45% were employed full-time, and 12% were employed part-time. Most respondents were highly educated, with 84% having at least a college degree, and 40% having an advanced degree (e.g., M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.). More than three quarters (82%) reported a household income over $75,000, and 41% reported a household income of $200,000 or more.

Origins of Wildfire Perceptions and Knowledge

Communication About Wildfire

Current and Preferred Modes of Communication

Community programs undertake various outreach efforts to communicate wildfire risk information. We asked survey respondents by what modes they currently receive wildfire risk communications. At the time of the survey, the top two most frequent modes of wildfire risk communication were in-person interactions (51%) and newspaper (47%). See figure 17.

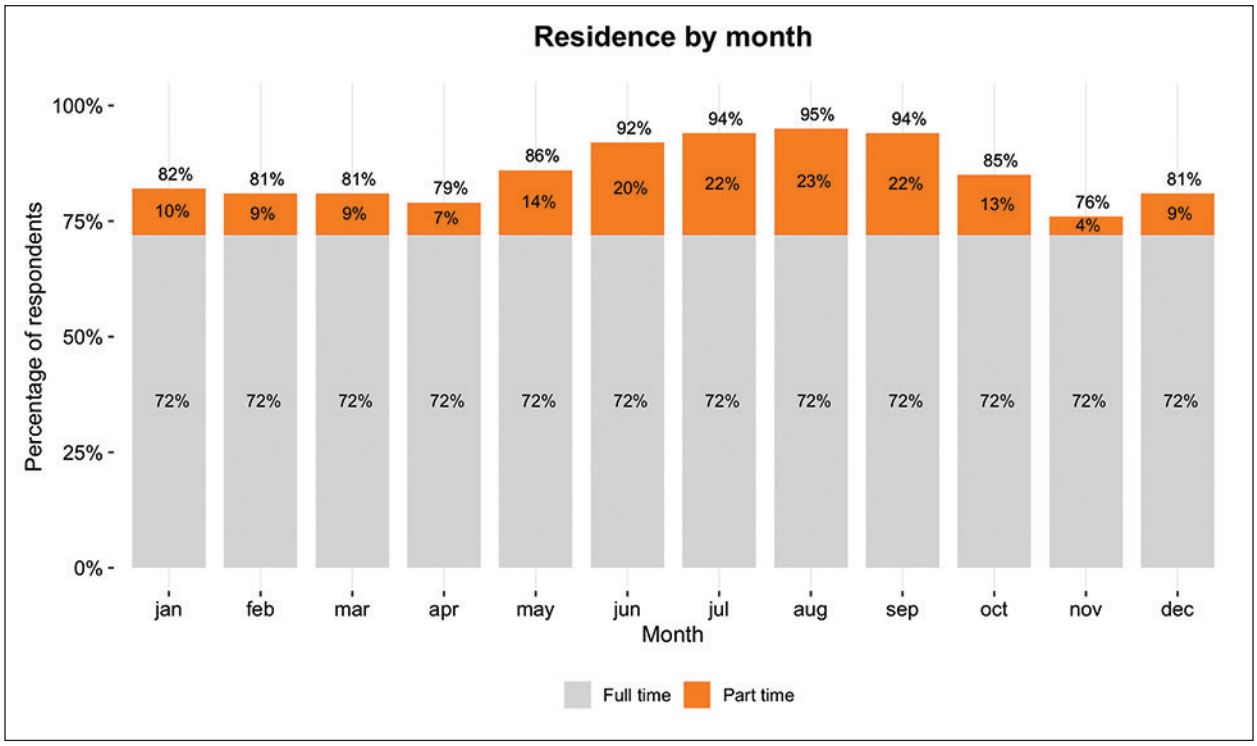

Figure 16—Stacked bar plot comparing by month the number of respondents residing in their Teton county home. Data for each month is divided between respondents who reported occupying their residence every month of the year and respondents who selected particular months. N = 254 respondents to this survey question.

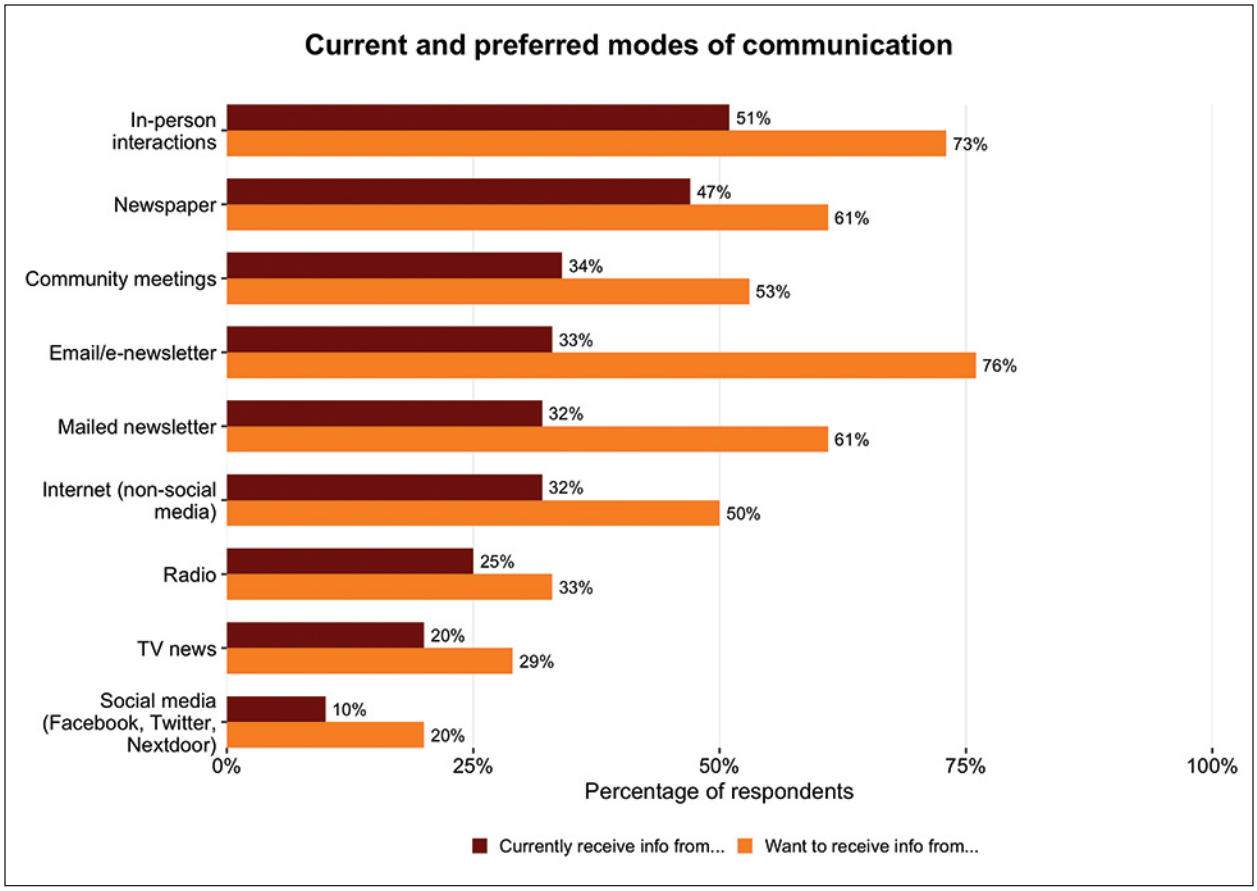

Figure 17—Comparison of used and preferred modes of communication about wildfire risk, ordered by current modes of communication, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. Survey respondents were able to select multiple options. N = 241–250 respondents to current modes; N = 230–237 respondents to preferred modes.

Since preferred modes of communications may vary by community, and some modes of communication may not have been available at the time of the survey, respondents were also asked by what modes would they prefer to receive wildfire communication. Seventy-six percent of respondents preferred email/e-newsletter, while 73% preferred to receive wildfire risk information via in-person interactions. Other top preferred modes of communication included newspaper (61%), mailed newsletter (61%), and community meetings (53%). The least preferred mode of communication was social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor; 20%). See figure 17.

Sources of Information and Reported Usefulness

Respondents were also asked to report from which sources of information they have received wildfire risk information and to evaluate the usefulness of those sources. In the graph below, respondents who found the source very or extremely useful are calculated as a percentage of only the respondents who indicated that they have received the source.

The most received sources of wildfire information were the local fire department (55%) and a community group (46%). The local fire department was also considered one of the most useful sources, alongside the Teton Conservation District, with 67% of respondents rating the wildfire information from those two sources as very or extremely useful. The local fire department was the only source that a majority of respondents have used and find useful. Sources that are considered useful, but are reported to be less used, such as the Teton Conservation District, community wildfire ambassadors, and Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition, might consider finding ways to increase usage. See figure 18.

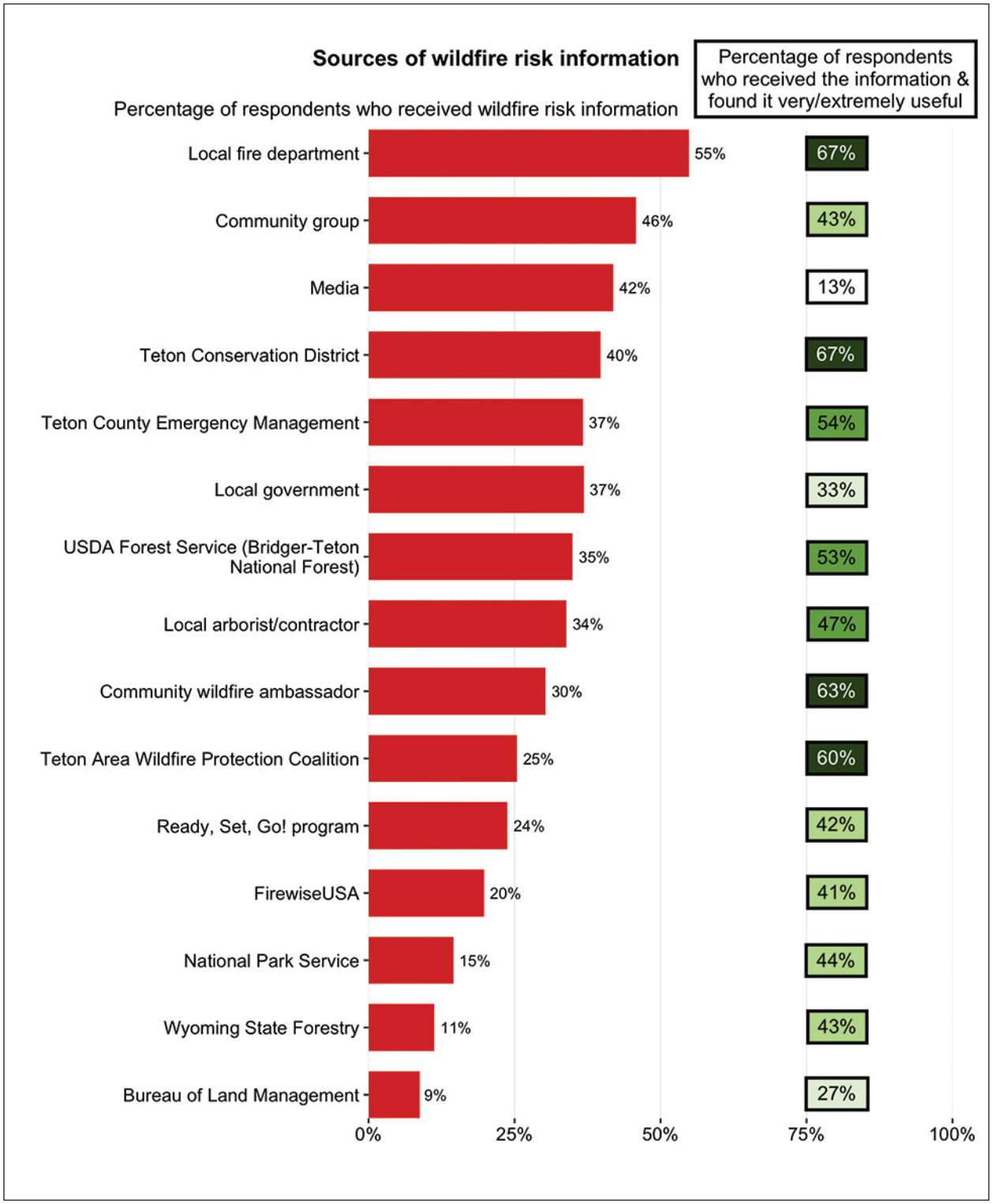

Figure 18—Percentage of respondents who received wildfire risk information, by source, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. This data is compared to the percentage of people who said they found each source's wildfire risk information very or extremely useful (percentage of all respondents who received wildfire risk information from that particular source). N = 247-251 respondents to these survey questions.

In addition to formal sources of information, respondents also receive and provide information through interactions with their neighbors. Sixty-eight percent of survey respondents reported talking with a neighbor about wildfire. See figure 19.

Although few survey respondents (13%) reported that all of their neighbors have taken action to address wildfire risk, most respondents (60%) reported that most of their neighbors have taken action, and very few (5%) reported that no neighbors have taken action. See figure 20.

Relatedly, as described in figure 26, only 15% of respondents agreed that "My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is ineffective because of the heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties," and in figure 28, only 25% of respondents thought their neighbor's property substantially contributes to the chances of a wildfire damaging the respondent's property in the next 12 months.

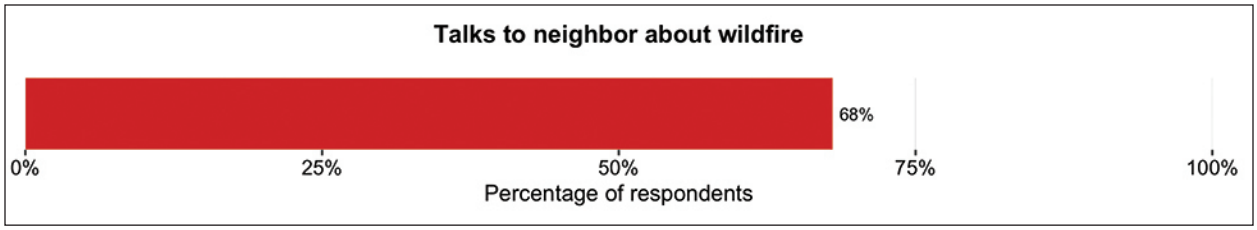

Figure 19—Percentage of respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY, who reported talking to their neighbor about wildfire. N = 255 respondents to this survey question.

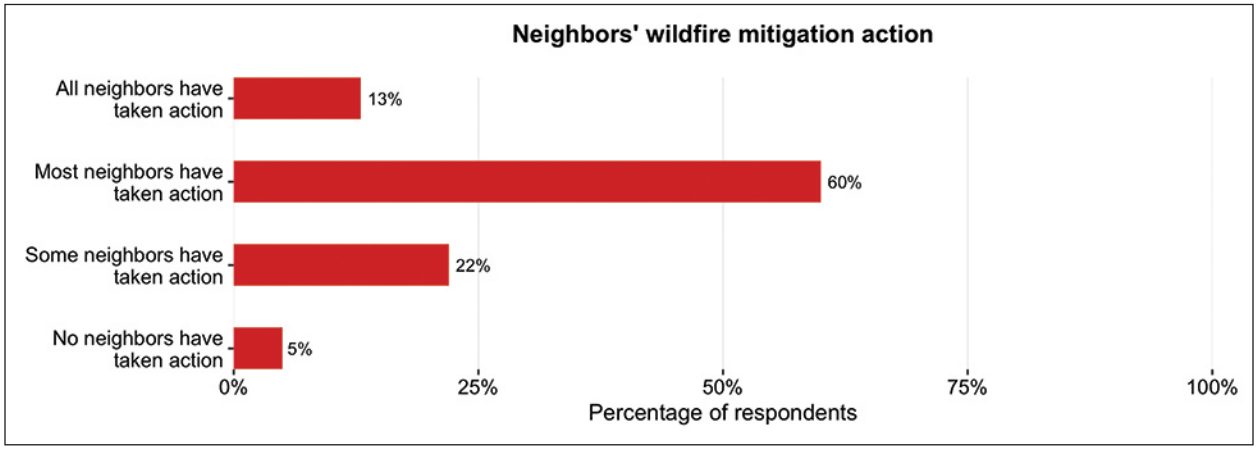

Figure 20—Respondents' estimates of how many neighbors take wildfire mitigation action, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 245 respondents to these two survey questions.

Wildfire Experience

The majority of survey respondents have had very little direct experience with wildfire. Very few respondents have had fire damage, smoke damage, or a home destroyed by fire. However, 30% have evacuated due to a wildfire. See figure 21.

The survey also asked respondents how close a wildfire has come to their property in the past. Most respondents (86%) have experienced wildfire within 10 miles of their property, and 46% within 2 miles of their property. See figure 22.

Notions of Hazard and Response

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with a series of wildfire attitude statements, on a scale from zero to 10. Here, we report on the percentage of respondents who indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed (5 or higher on the scale) with the statements. Overall, there is strong consensus regarding several aspects of wildfire. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that wildfires should be put out if they threaten human life (93%) and homes (89%). However, 93% agreed that "Wildfires are a natural part of the balance of a healthy forest/ecosystem." Providing more context to that statement, 73% agreed that "During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving forests." See figure 23.

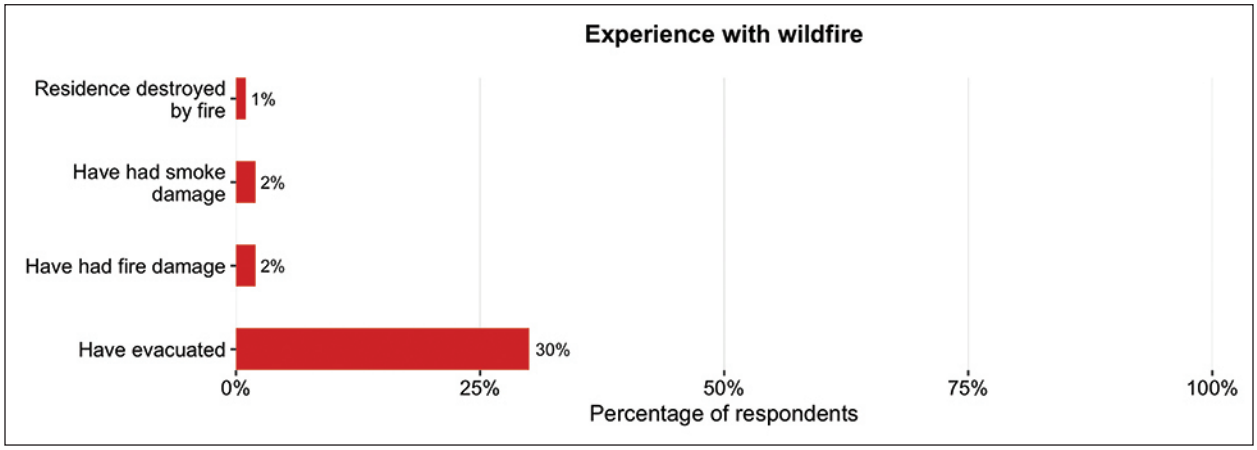

Figure 21—Respondent experience with various impacts of wildfire, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 246–252 respondents to this survey question.

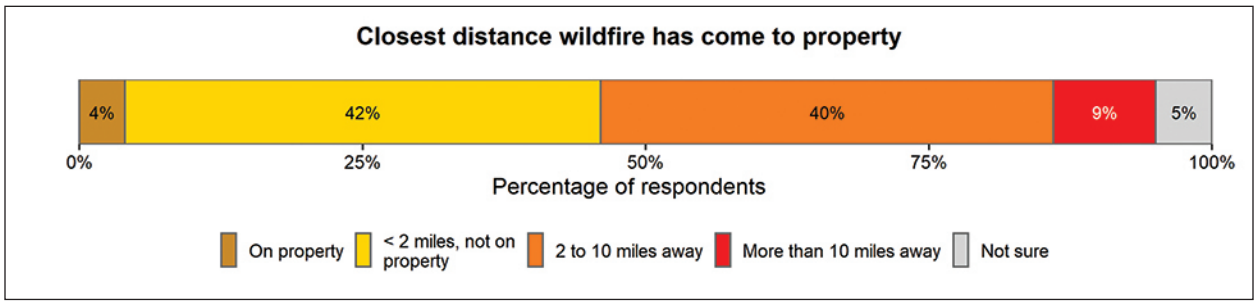

Figure 22—Respondent estimates of how close a wildfire has come to their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 256 respondents to this survey question.

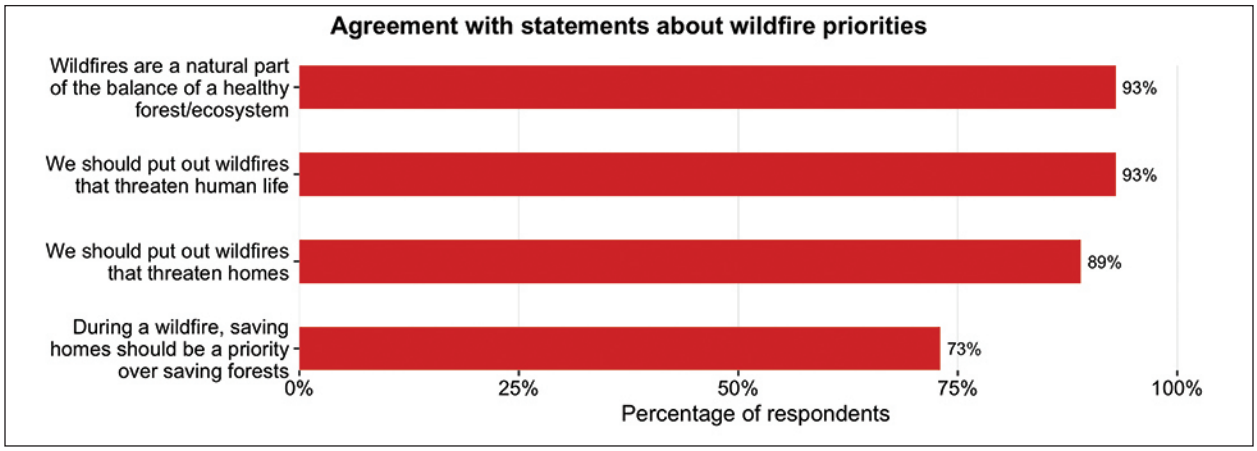

Figure 23—Agreement with four statements about priorities between human and natural resources during a wildfire, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252–254 respondents to each survey statement listed.

Perhaps due to the high number of study respondents who have experienced a wildfire near their property, 68% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "My property is at risk of wildfire." However, just 18% of respondents agreed that "Wildfires threaten my community water supply." See figure 24.

Statements about managing wildfire impacts garnered less agreement overall. Twenty-nine percent of respondents agreed that "With proper technology, we can control most wildfires," suggesting that most (71%) disagree that we can control most wildfires, given the proper technology. However, providing context to that statement, respondents appear to recognize the limited availability of wildfire suppression resources. Nine percent of respondents agreed that "Local firefighters will have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes" and 7% agreed that "Local firefighters will have sufficient resources to keep the wildfire from spreading." See figure 25.

Notably, survey responses suggest a willingness to take responsibility for and belief in the effectiveness of personal wildfire risk mitigation action. In particular, few respondents agreed that managing wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not their own (7%), and few agreed that firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect their home (2%). Furthermore, few agreed that they will not remove trees to reduce wildfire risk (6%), and few agreed that homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective (3%). See figure 26.

Respondents also generally did not agree that other properties affect their wildfire risk. In particular, 30% agreed that "Development in fire-prone areas of Teton County increases the wildfire risk to my Teton County property," and 15% agreed that "My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is ineffective because of the

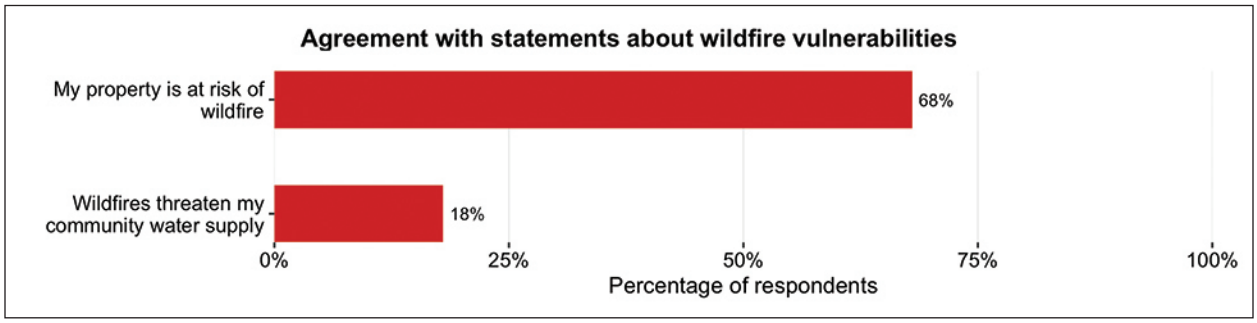

Figure 24—Agreement with two statements about whether wildfire threatens the respondent's property and water supply, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 249–253 respondents to each survey statement listed.

heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties," suggesting that most (85%) either believed their mitigation action was effective or at least was unaffected by neighbors' properties. See figure 26.

Lastly, zero respondents agreed that they plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires. See figure 26.

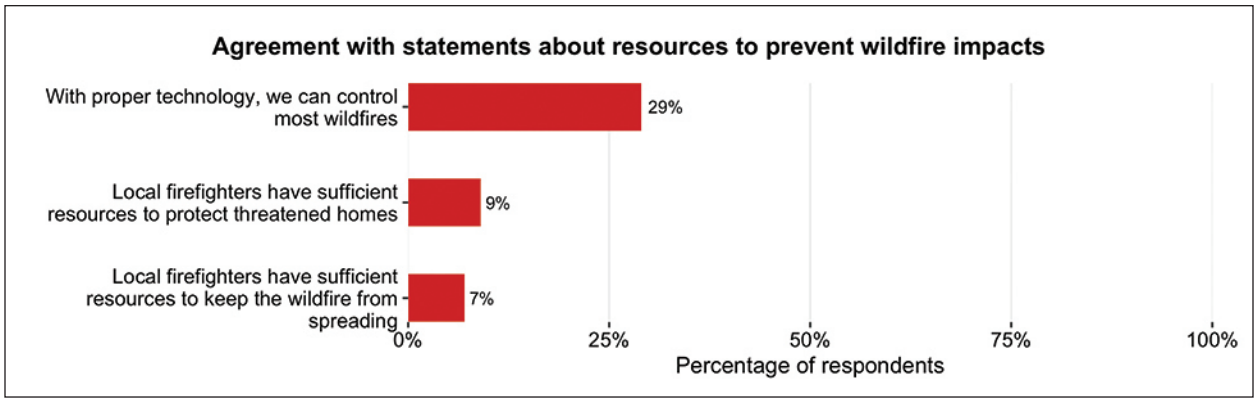

Figure 25—Agreement with three statements about available technology and resources to prevent wildfire impacts, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 250–254 respondents to each survey statement listed.

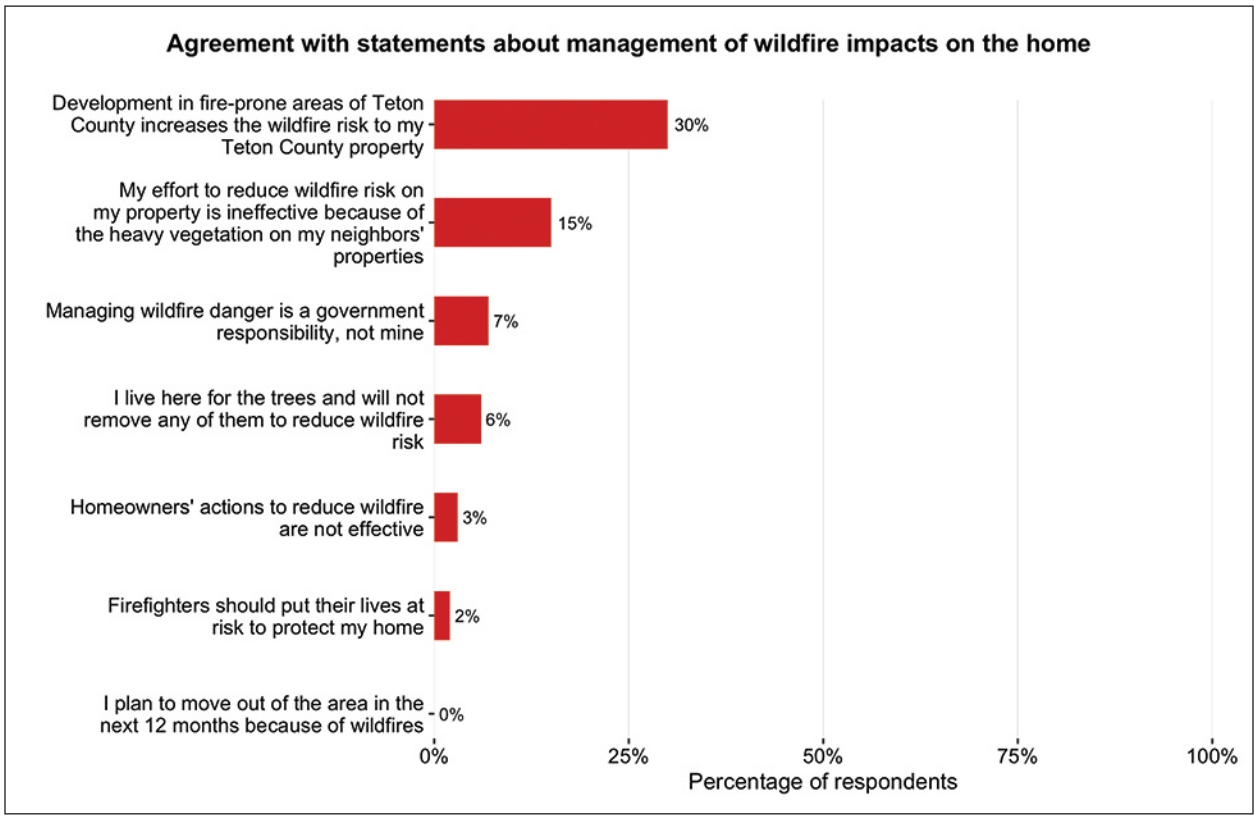

Figure 26—Agreement with seven statements about personal and community management of wildfire impacts on the respondent's home, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252–254 respondents to each survey statement listed.

When asked to consider expectations about wildfire, only 21% of respondents thought it likely (> 50% chance) a wildfire would be on their property in the next 12 months. However, 54% thought it likely (> 50% chance) that if there was a wildfire on their property, their Teton County home would be destroyed or severely damaged. See figure 27.

Respondents were asked, "If there is a wildfire on your Teton County property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur?" For each statement, respondents indicated likelihood on a scale from "not likely at all" to "extremely likely," or "not applicable." In the following four graphs, we report the percentage of respondents that thought the following outcomes were very or extremely likely, excluding those who responded "not applicable."

Respondents thought it most likely that lack of nearby water supply for fire suppression (46%) or vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land (42%) most substantially contribute to the chances of wildfire damage to their property. Fewer respondents thought factors closer to home would affect the chances of wildfire damage to their property, such as vegetation on neighbors' properties (25%), physical characteristics of structures on their property (23%), and vegetation on their property (20%). See figure 28.

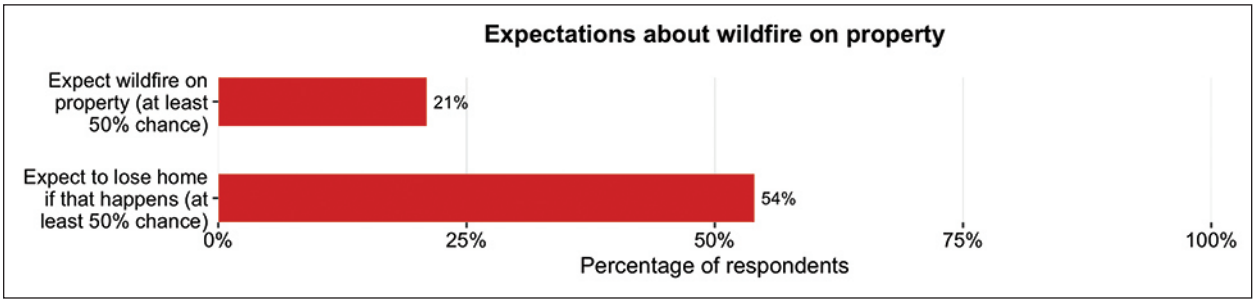

Figure 27—Estimate of the chances of a wildfire on property in the next year, and chances of losing home in that case, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 253–254 respondents to each survey question.

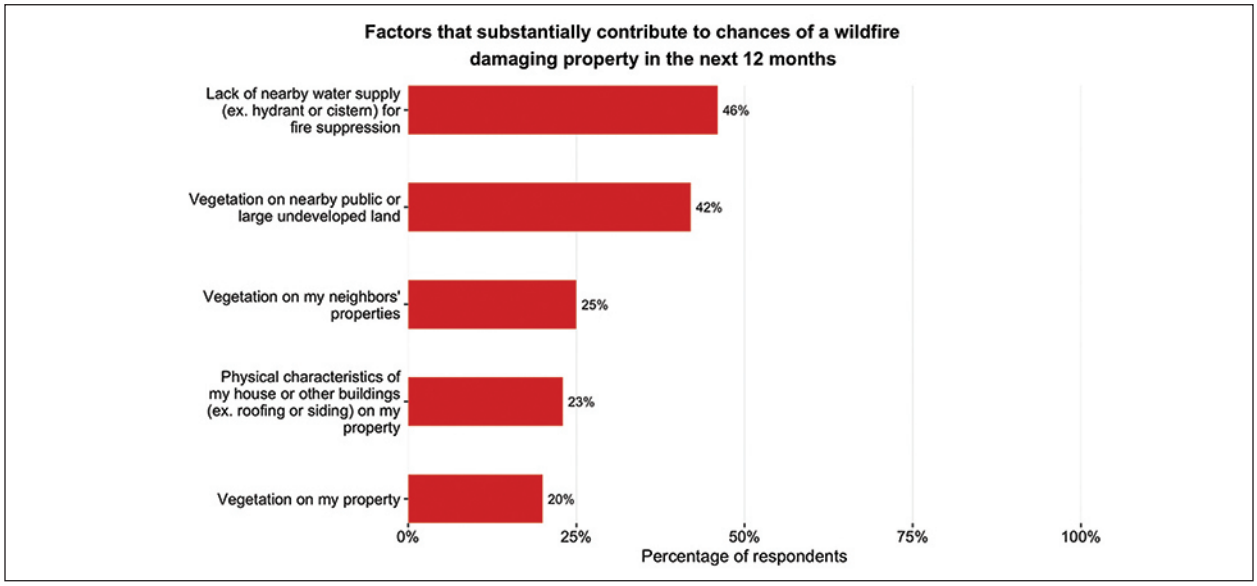

Figure 28—Percentage of respondents who thought the above factors contribute "a lot" to the chances of a wildfire damaging their property in the next 12 months, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252–254 respondents to each statement listed.

Regarding ignition of the home, some respondents thought it likely that direct flame (33%) or embers (32%) would ignite their home. Fewer (12%) thought nearby homes would ignite their home. See figure 29.

Many respondents reported that, if there was a wildfire on their property, it was likely that their trees and landscape would burn (59%), their home would have smoke damage (50%), and some physical damage (42%). Thirty-one percent of respondents thought they would lose money due to loss of business or income on their property. Only 21% thought their home would be destroyed, and a slightly greater number thought their neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed (34%). See figure 30.

In the event of a wildfire on their property, few respondents thought it very or extremely likely that the fire department would save their home (28%), and they thought it even less likely that they would put the fire out themselves (17%). See figure 31.

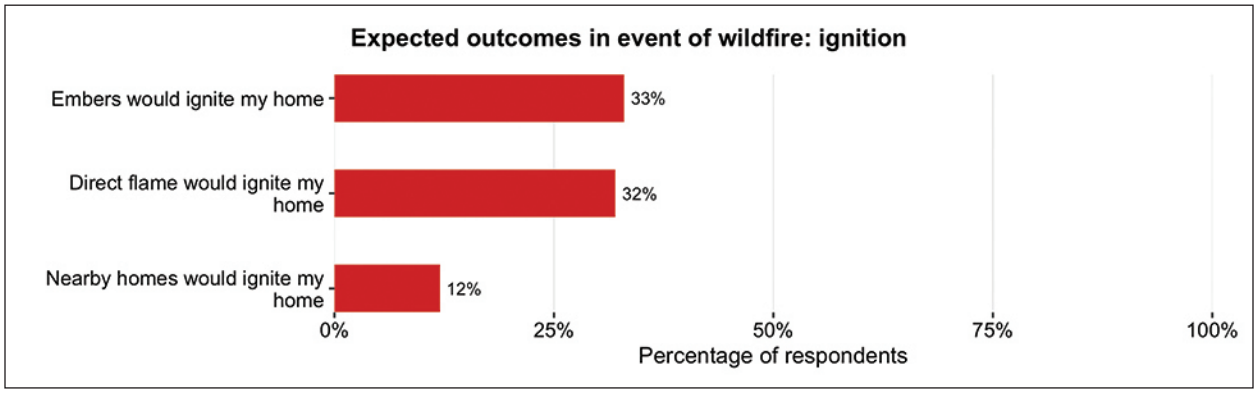

Figure 29—Percentage of respondents who thought the above sources of ignition were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 255–256 respondents to each statement listed. Graph does not include survey respondents who did not respond to these questions.

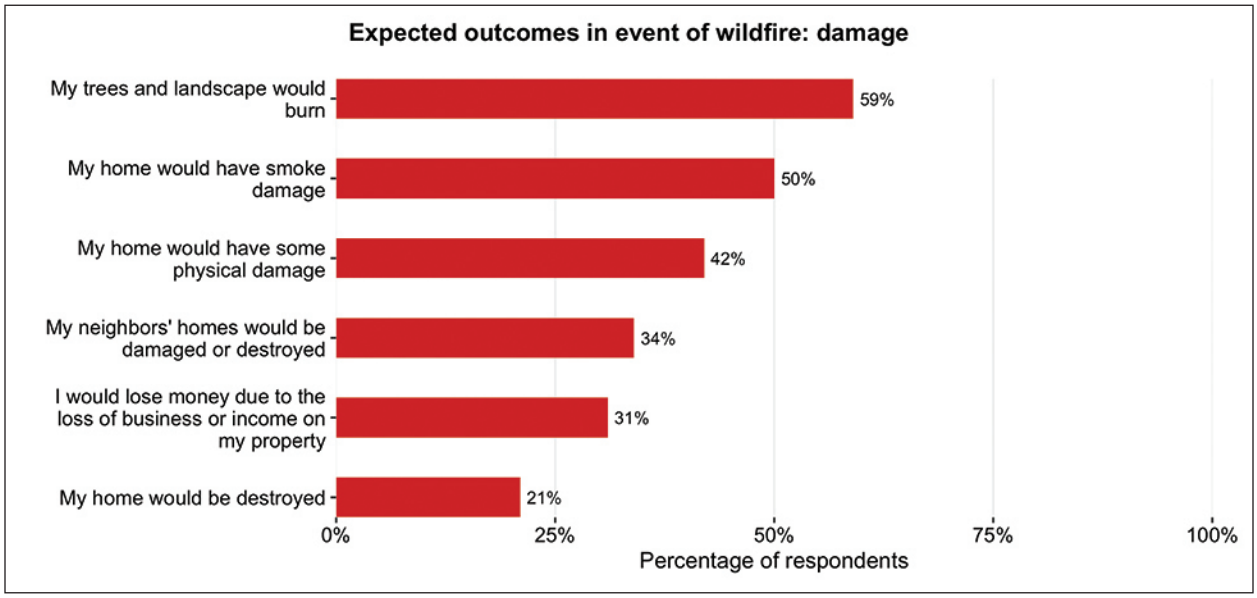

Figure 30—Percentage of respondents who thought the above forms of wildfire damage were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 250–257 respondents for each survey question.

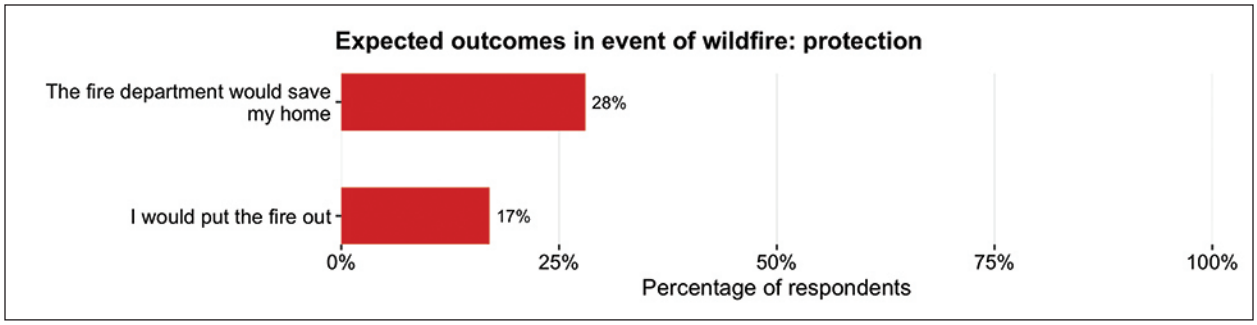

Figure 31—Percentage of respondents who thought the above sources of protection to their home were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 255–256 respondents for each survey question.

What Are Respondents Doing About Wildfire?

Wildfire Preparedness

A critical component of being prepared for a wildfire is the development of an evacuation plan. Sixty-four percent of respondents reported having an evacuation plan for the people in their household. Seventy-two percent of respondents have pets on their property, and 57% of those respondents have a plan for those pets. Nineteen percent of respondents have livestock on their property, and 32% of those respondents have a plan for those livestock. See figure 32.

Respondents also reported what evacuation planning actions they have completed, and what type of information would help them develop an evacuation plan. Most respondents reported that they have created a checklist of steps to take before evacuating (71%), have identified how they will be notified about an evacuation (70%), and have signed up for a wildfire evacuation notification system (Nixle; 60%). The top two types of information that respondents would like more information about are safe evacuation routes (71%) and what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation (58%). See figure 33.

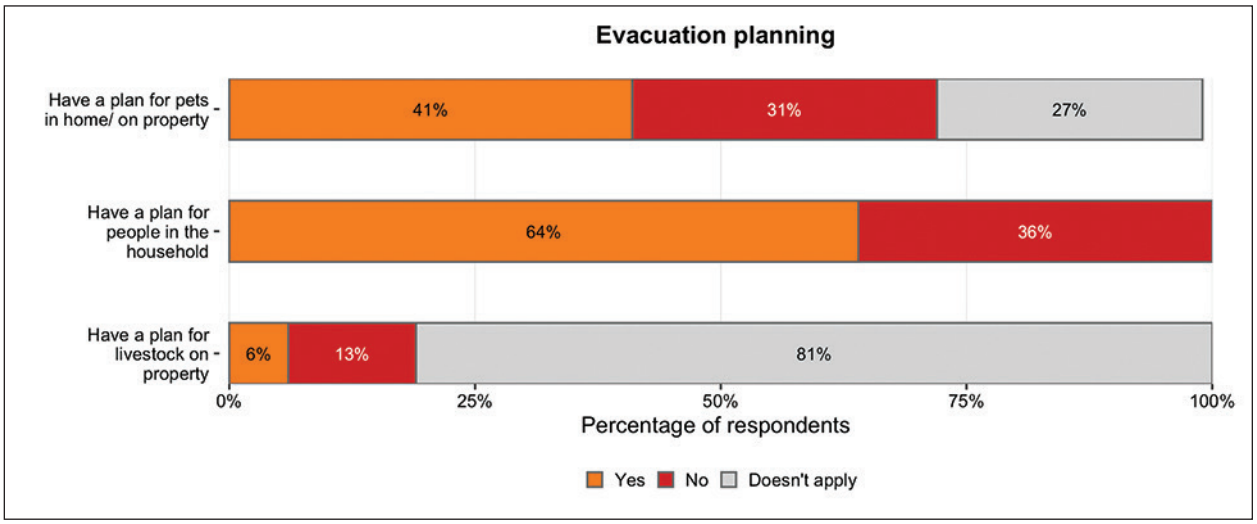

Figure 32—Percentage of respondents who have wildfire evacuation plans for the above categories, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 251–255 respondents for each of the above categories.

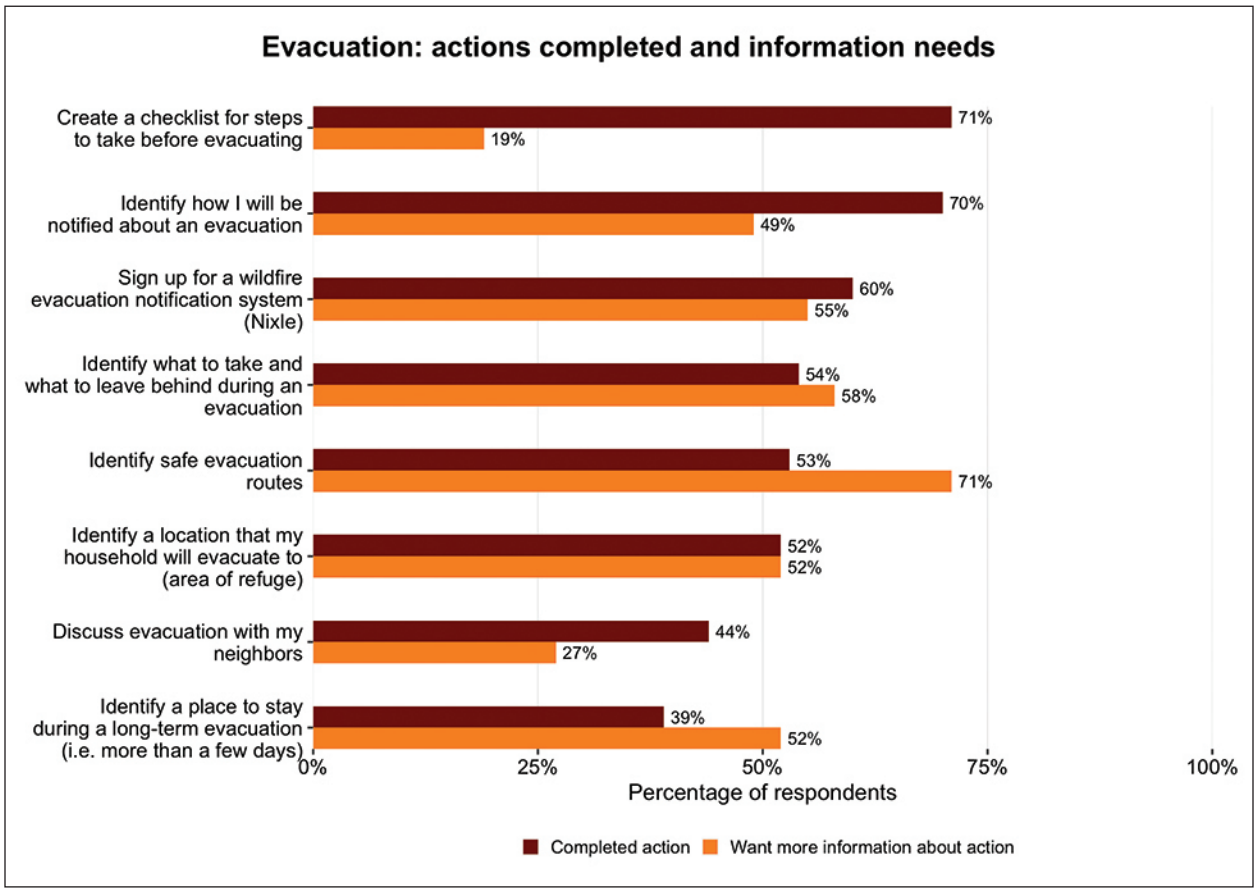

Figure 33—Evacuation preparations completed and information that would be helpful in evacuation plan development, ordered by actions completed, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 240–245 respondents to wanting more information statements; N = 149–179 respondents for completed action statements.

Mitigation

Respondents were also asked to report on their wildfire risk reduction activity on their property or nearby. Many respondents reported they regularly mowed and raked around their home (89%), reduced vegetation on their property (89%), and regularly cleared their roof and gutters (75%). About half reported they had made their home more fire resistant (51%) and met with a wildfire professional to evaluate and discuss their property's wildfire risk (48%). It is not surprising to see such a high level of reported wildfire risk mitigation activities, given that in figure 26, only 3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire risk are not effective." See figure 34.

Some respondents also helped with wildfire risk mitigation nearby. Twenty-seven percent of respondents reported they had participated in a community wildfire activity, 21% reported they had reduced vegetation on community property, and 12% had done so on nearby public lands. Twenty-three percent reported they had helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation. See figure 34.

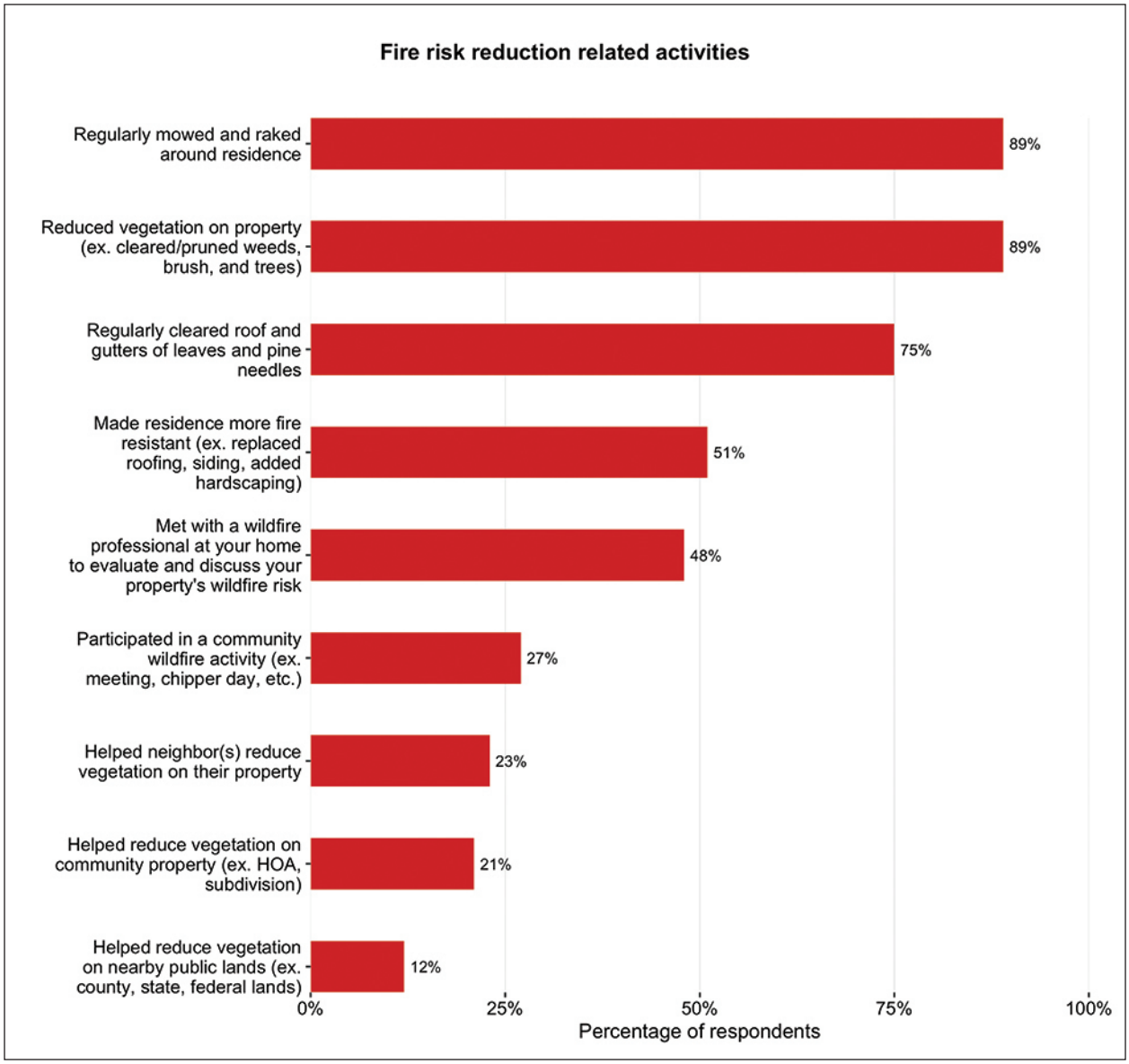

Figure 34—Percent of respondents who reported doing the above wildfire risk mitigation activities, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 251–255 respondents to each of the activity statements.

There is a range of mitigation approaches for managing fuels on public lands. In order to undertake those activities, it is useful to understand how acceptable these activities are to those living nearby. We provide the percentage of respondents who reported that activities were very or extremely acceptable. Overall, there is very high support for each of the items queried. Eighty percent of respondents reported that "Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles)" was acceptable. Seventy-six percent reported that "Managing a naturally ignited fire (such as lightning)" was acceptable and 64% reported that "Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire managers" was acceptable. Seventy-four percent of respondents reported that "Removing trees and reducing other vegetation" was acceptable. See figure 35.

The study area is located along the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project (see "Study Area" section for more details). However, only 21% of survey respondents reported being aware of this project. See figure 36.

In addition to fuels management approaches, we also asked survey respondents about the acceptability of adopting wildfire-related policies, specifically to apply to wildfire-prone areas in Teton County. We provide the percentage of respondents who reported that activities were very or extremely acceptable. Overall, there is majority support for each of these policies. See figure 37.

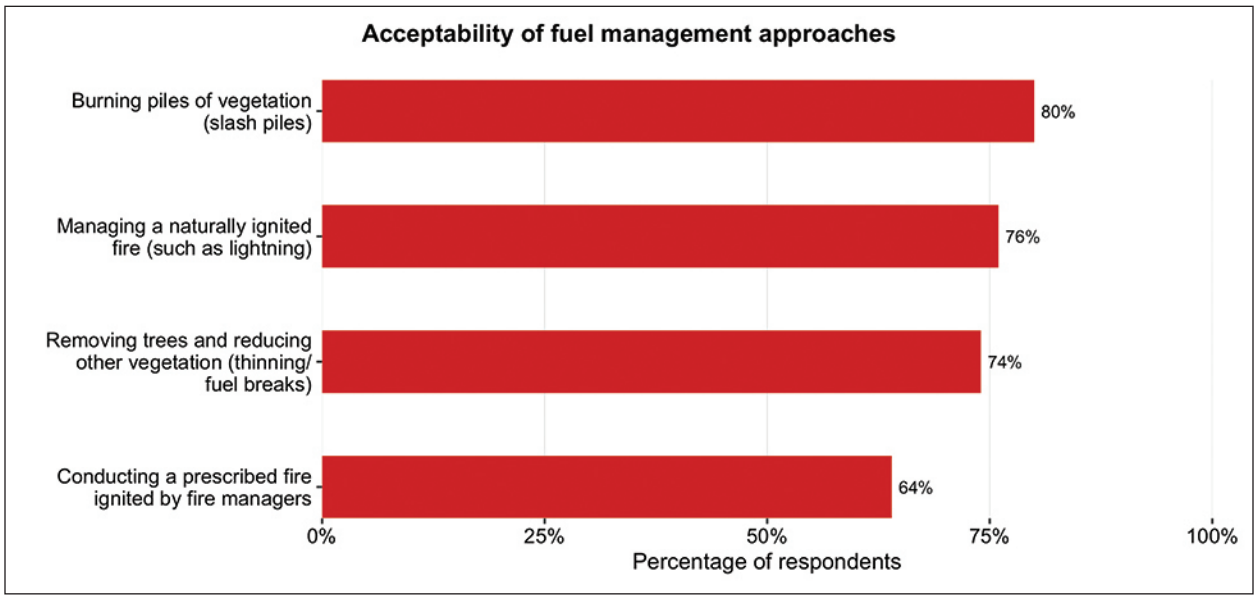

Figure 35—Percentage of respondents who found each of the above wildfire fuels management approaches very or extremely acceptable, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 254–255 respondents for each statement.

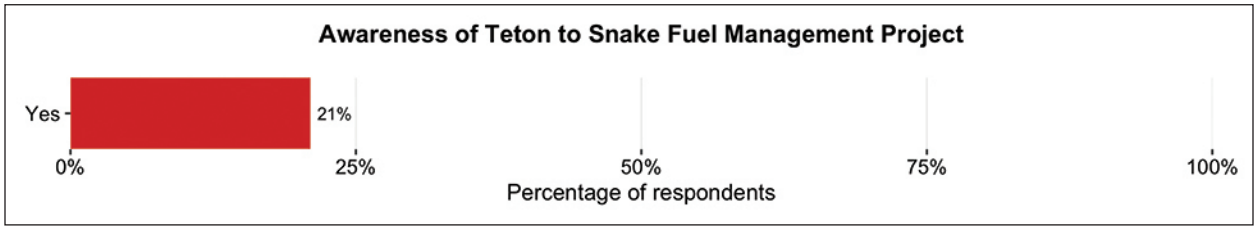

Figure 36—Percentage of respondents who reported being aware of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 253 respondents to this question.

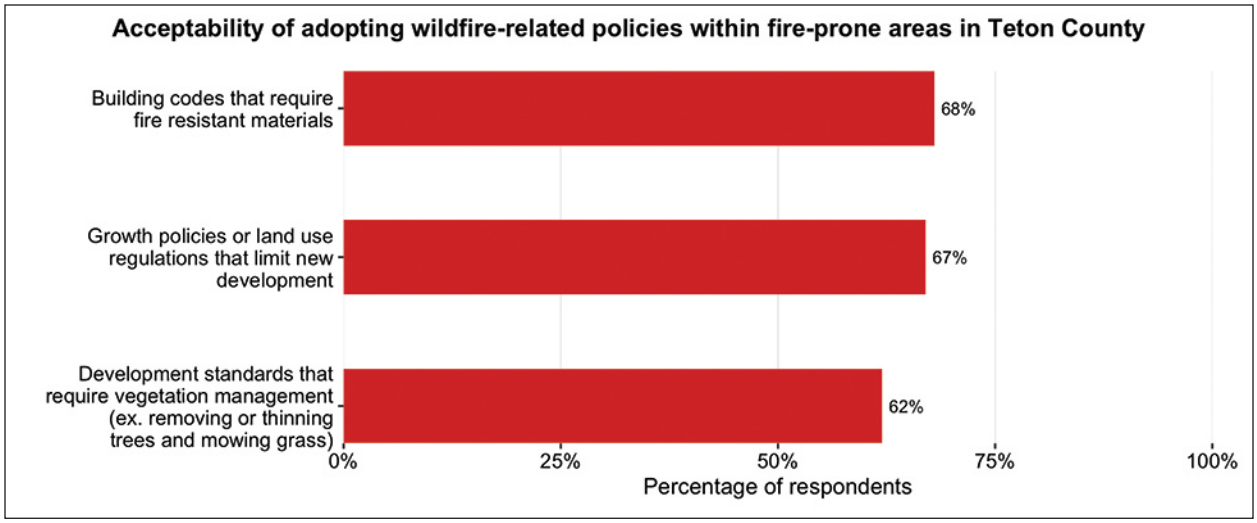

Figure 37—Percentage of respondents who found each of the above wildfire-related policies very or extremely acceptable, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252 respondents for each statement.

Barriers and Incentives

Survey respondents were asked, "Do any of the following prevent you from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Teton County property?" Potential responses were divided into four categories, related to personal resources, lack of information, personal perspectives, and community. In each category, respondents also had the option to select "none of these." Overall, respondents indicated that few of the barriers mentioned prevent them from taking wildfire risk reduction action.

Financial cost was the top reason respondents reported for not conducting mitigation; a third (33%) reported this was a barrier. Time (31%) and physical ability (25%) to do the work were also top barriers. However, almost half of respondents (48%) said none of these were barriers to conducting mitigation. See figure 38.

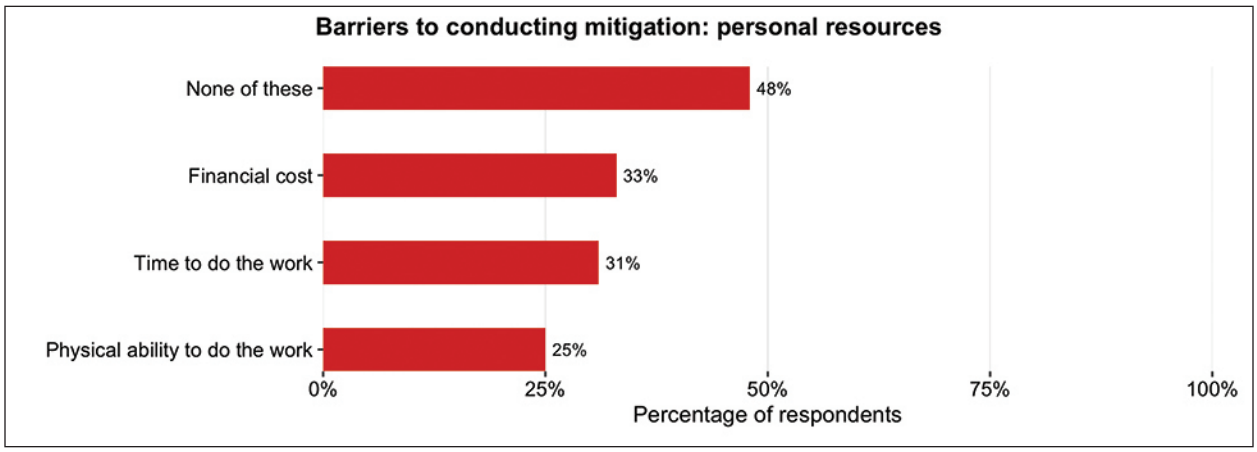

Figure 38—Personal barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 255 respondents for each listed barrier.

Lack of specific information about how to reduce wildfire risk on their property was another top barrier to mitigation, with 24% of respondents selecting this option. However, the majority of respondents (62%) reported that they did not need any of the below types of information. See figure 39.

Few respondents reported that personal perspectives were a barrier, including not wanting to change the way their property looks (17%), not believing their action will reduce their risk (10%), and seeing risk mitigation as a low priority (9%). Sixty-eight percent of respondents said none of these were barriers. See figure 40.

Few respondents said community-related factors prevent them from mitigation, such as lack of options for disposing of vegetation (17%), restrictions on changes to the property (5%), and social pressure from neighbors (1%). Seventy-eight percent said none of these were barriers. See figure 41.

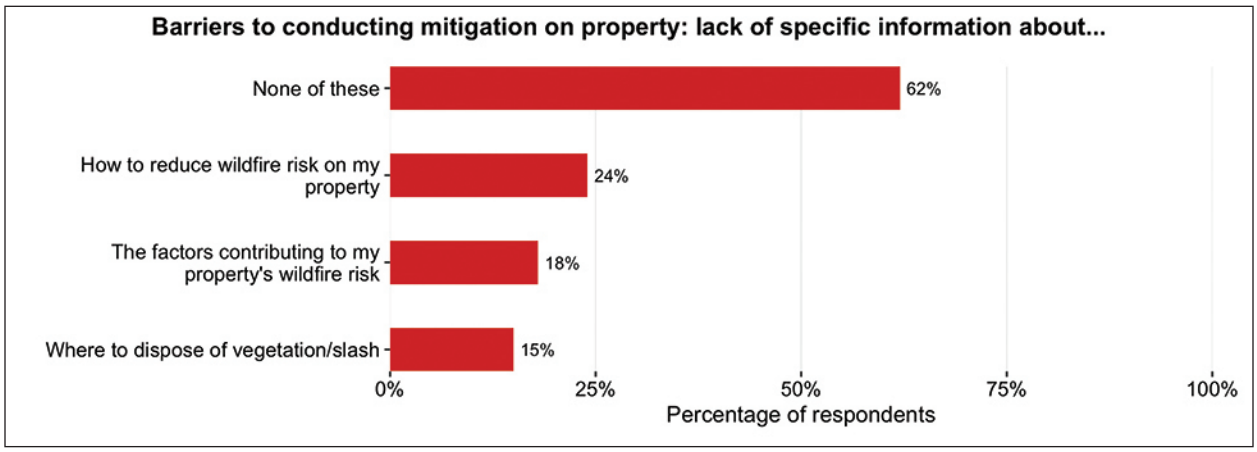

Figure 39—Information barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 255 respondents for each listed barrier.

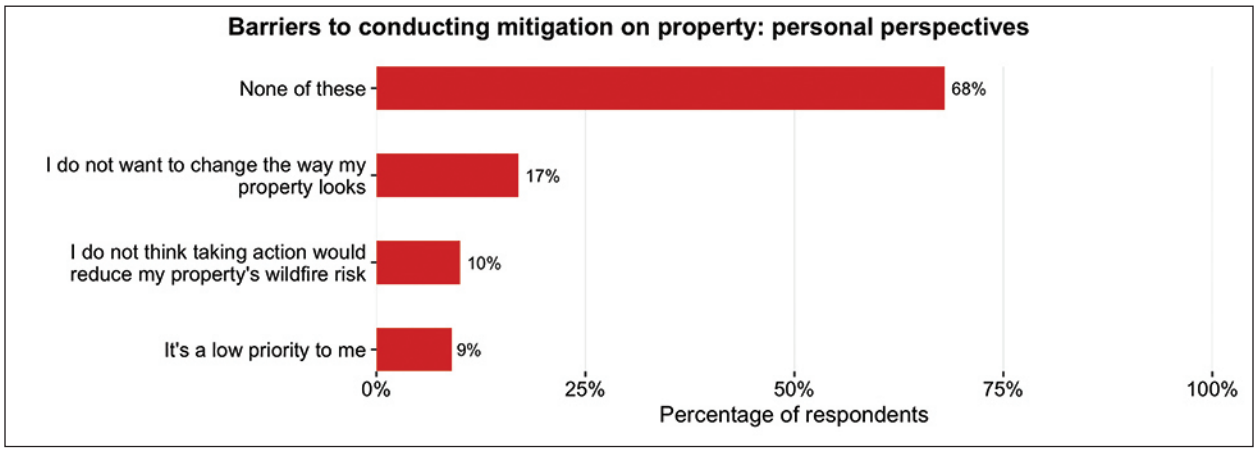

Figure 40—Personal perspectives or values that might affect wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 253 respondents for each listed barrier.

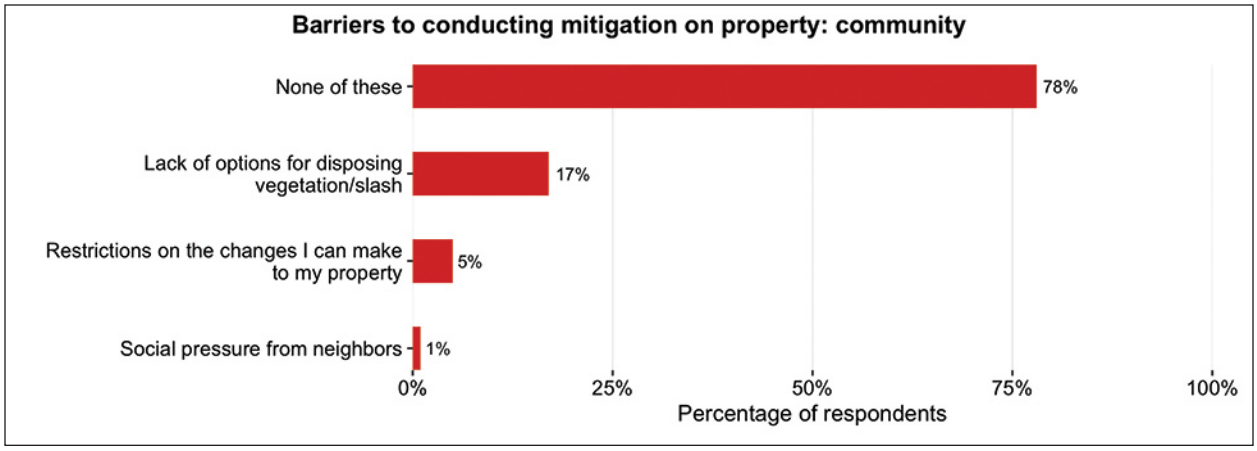

Figure 41—Community-related barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252 respondents for each listed barrier.

We also asked what would encourage respondents to reduce wildfire risk on their property. Possible responses were divided into the following three categories: resource, information, and other incentives for conducting mitigation. In each category, respondents also had the option to select "none of these." Overall, information incentives were the most selected.

Within the resource incentives category, the top incentive was financial assistance (53%), followed by help doing the work (48%). The percentage of respondents who selected these incentives is also relatively high compared to the percentage of respondents to incentives in other categories. Recommended contractors were less of an incentive, with 29% of respondents selecting that option. See figure 42.

The top incentive in the information incentives category, as well as overall, is a report describing the property's wildfire risk factors (61%) and a one-to-one visit with wildfire risk experts on the respondent's property (57%). Videos showing risk reduction methods were less of an incentive, with 23% of respondents selecting that option. See figure 43.

Feedback (39%) and neighborhood-organized risk reduction activities (34%) were selected as incentives by a moderate number of respondents. However, just as many respondents indicated that none of these were incentives. Notably, few respondents (9%) selected recognition for taking action as an incentive for conducting mitigation. Figure 44.

The potential role of insurance providers to incentivize wildfire risk mitigation activities among policy holders is often touted as an important complement to local wildfire risk mitigation efforts. Most respondents (66%) reported believing their home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire. However, the percentage of respondents who reported insurance-related mitigation incentives is low. Only 22% of respondents were aware of paying a higher premium due to wildfire risk. Ten percent or less of respondents reported that they had received a discount because of wildfire risk mitigation on their property, that their insurance company required mitigation action as a condition of coverage, or that their insurance company offered private firefighting services. The most common insurance action reported was to provide information on reducing risk (24%). See figure 45.

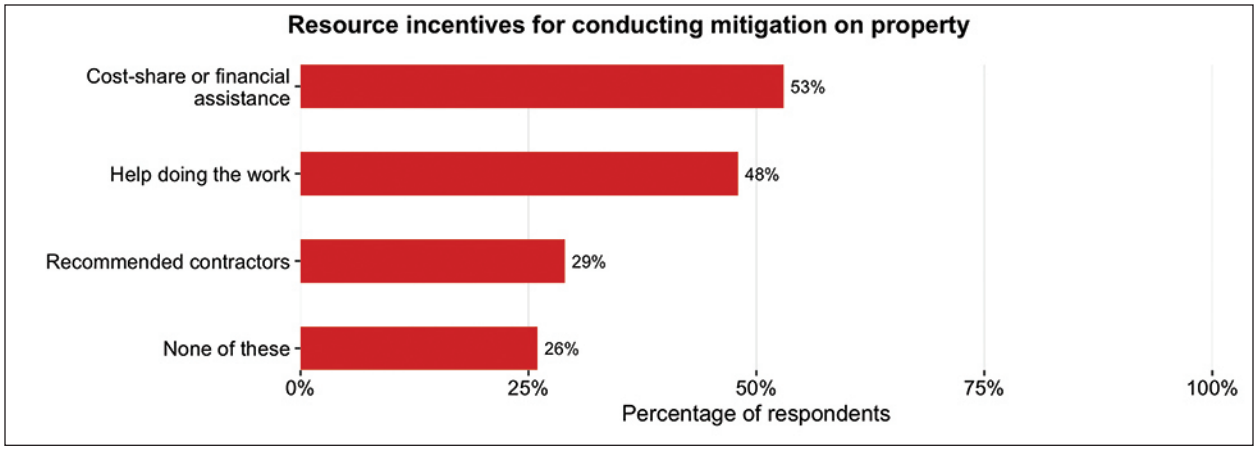

Figure 42—Resource-related incentives for conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 252 respondents for each listed incentive.

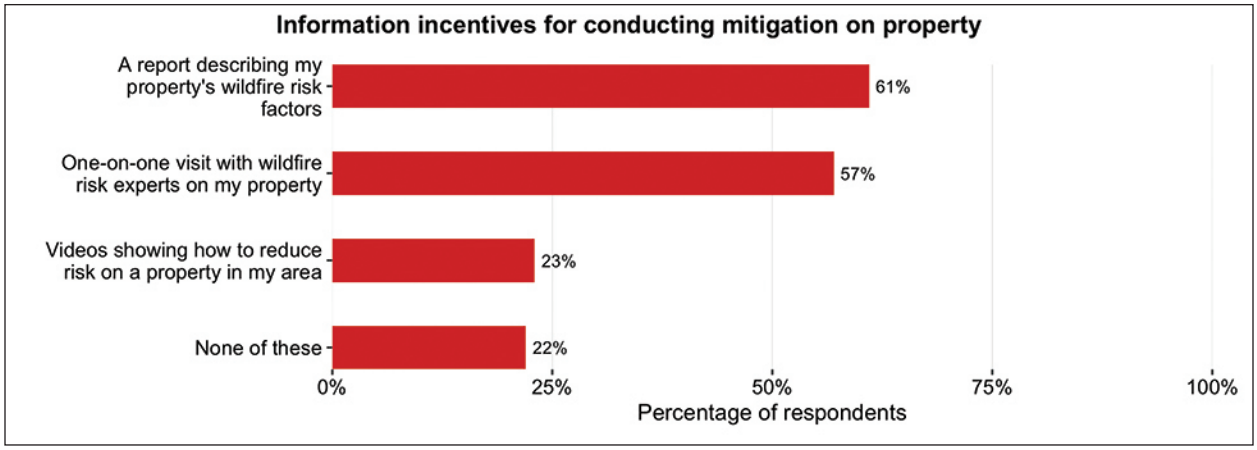

Figure 43—Information-related incentives for conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 251 respondents for each listed incentive.

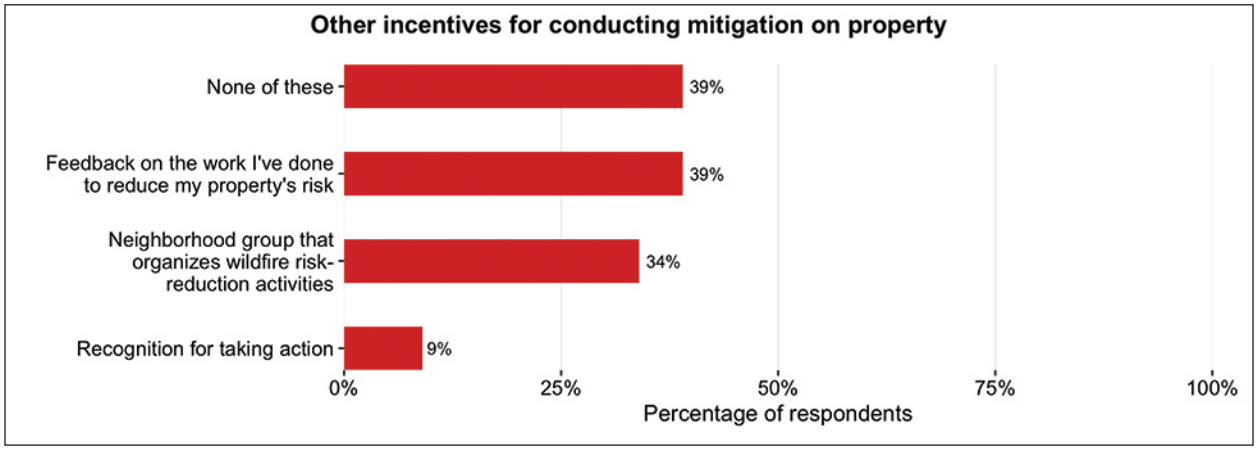

Figure 44—Other incentives for conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, related to the respondent's community, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 249 respondents for each listed incentive.

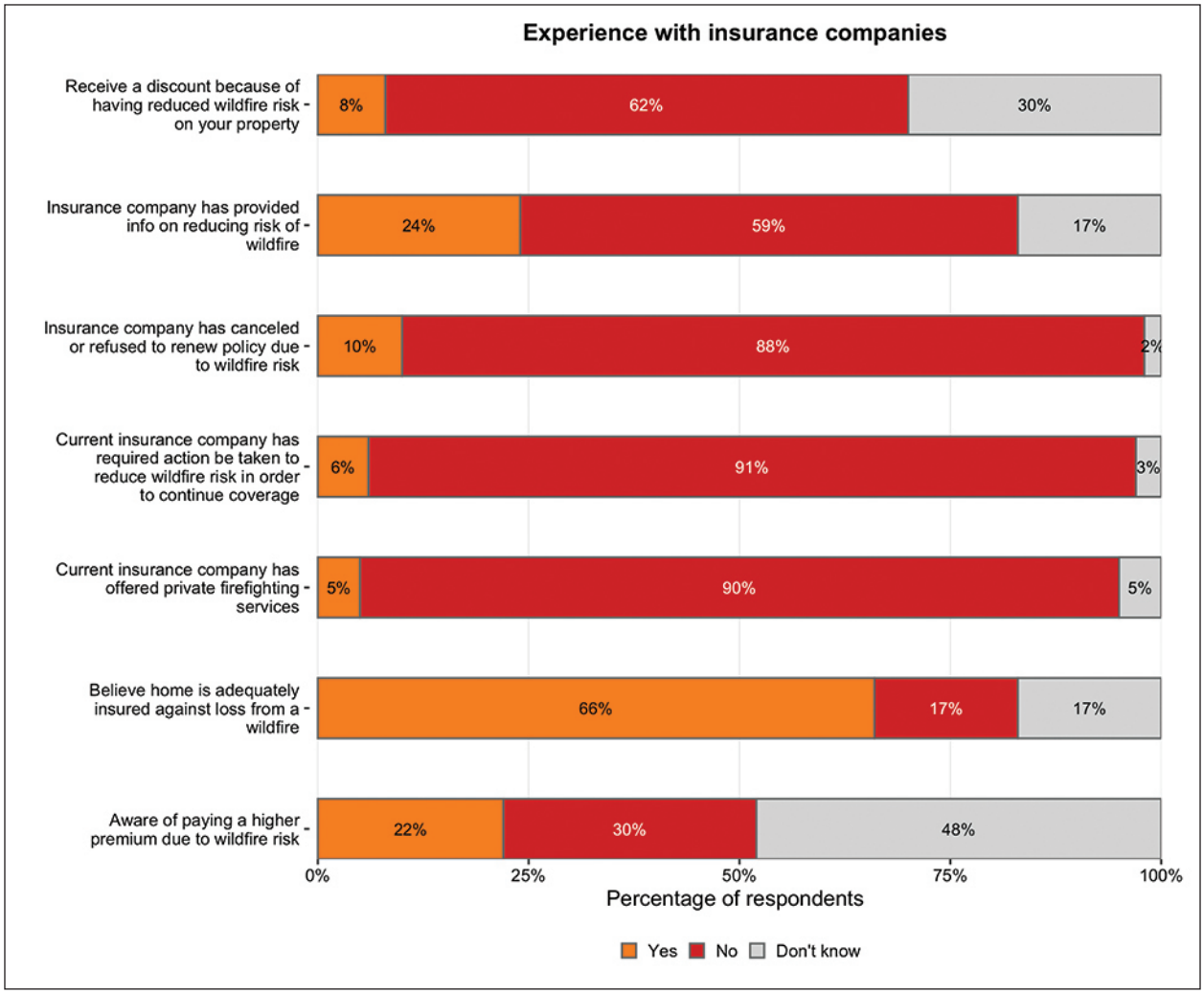

Figure 45—Respondents' knowledge of and experience with various insurance company actions, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in Teton County, WY. N = 254–256 respondents to each statement.

CONCLUSION

Wildfire professionals affiliated with the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) conducted WiRē Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments (rapid assessments), including assessment of various risk attributes, for properties within the study area in Teton County, Wyoming. Residents within the study area responded to a household survey that asked them to estimate their overall risk as well as current conditions on their property (see "Methods" section for more details). Comparison of these two data sources reveals a mismatch between rapid assessment and household survey assessment of overall wildfire risk (fig. 2, Appendices C and F). The risk assessment rated most properties as high, very high, or extreme risk (87%). However, most survey respondents rated their properties as low, moderate, or high risk (90%). This mismatch is of concern because the owners of properties with the highest risk may not realize that this is the case, and thus may not participate in TAWPC and affiliated organizations' risk mitigation efforts. Closing this risk assessment "gap" will align programmatic and respondent perspectives.

Contributing to the risk assessment gap is the difference in defensible space assessment, one of the most important risk attributes (fig. 10). Most survey respondents (74%) thought they had at least 30 feet of defensible space, whereas rapid assessment estimated only 40% of properties to have more than 30 feet of defensible space. Furthermore, only 4% of survey respondents estimated their defensible space as less than 5 feet, while the rapid assessment placed 30% of properties in that category (fig. 10).

Most survey respondents reported high levels of risk mitigation activity and few barriers to action, suggesting that the lack of adequate defensible space is not due to respondents' unwillingness to take risk reduction action. Instead, it may be due to misconceptions about adequate defensible space. In particular, 89% of survey respondents reported reducing vegetation on their property and mowing and raking around their home (fig. 34), and when asked to identify barriers to mitigation, most respondents indicated that none of the listed factors prevent them from taking action (figs. 38-41). These results indicate that respondents believe they are effectively reducing risk on their property, suggesting a need for increased outreach related to proper defensible space.

Survey results suggest the opportunity for growth in emergency planning outreach. Only 64% of respondents indicated that they had an evacuation plan, and 60% have signed up for Nixle, the emergency notification system (figs. 32, 33; however, this may not be the best notification system for respondents living in remote areas with little cellular reception). Furthermore, only 8% of properties had reflective and visible address signing, which can be critical for rapid emergency response during a wildfire (fig. 3). Given that most respondents (95%) only have one road in or out of their community, preparedness for a rapid and orderly evacuation are particularly critical (fig. 4).

Respondents indicated that they receive wildfire information primarily from the local fire department (55%) and find it very useful (67%; fig. 18). They also find information from the Teton Conservation District (67%), community wildfire ambassadors (63%), and TAWPC (60%) to be very or extremely useful. However, fewer respondents had received information from those sources, suggesting the opportunity for increased outreach. Respondents reported their preferred modes of communication to be email (76%), in-person interactions (73%), mailed newsletter (61%), and the newspaper (61%; fig. 17). Given the connection between TAWPC and survey respondents, TAWPC and WiRē collaborated on an infographic-style outreach pamphlet that answers respondents' key questions about wildfire risk mitigation and encourages further action (Appendix E). Information selected for the pamphlet was based on survey responses. The pamphlet was mailed to owners in the study area in November 2021.

APPENDIX A: Correspondence Materials

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
40 East Pearl Street, #901
Jackson, WY 83001

DATE

Dear Teton County Resident,

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS and the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) share your concerns related to the rapid changes and uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also committed to continuing our efforts to prepare Teton County for the eventuality of wildfire, and now is the time to engage with homeowners and do mitigation work. Fire is an important part of the natural landscape in Teton County; however, last summer's Saddle Butte and Museum fires remind us of the ongoing wildfire threat. It is our goal to be proactive in confronting such events before another wildland fire threatens properties or destroys homes in our Teton County communities. Therefore, we are working to help homeowners understand and reduce their risks from wildfire losses.

Evaluating Your Risks Due to Wildfire
To better understand local wildfire risks, TAWPC will be conducting visual evaluations to determine how residents in the County can be better prepared in the event of a wildfire. These Rapid Wildfire Risk Evaluations are quick, curb-side evaluations of each home and surrounding area and will be done from your driveway entrance. The overarching goal of the evaluations is to increase awareness of potential wildfire risks on your property and the actions you can take to reduce potential property losses. If you would like more information on these curb-side evaluations, please reach out to Lesley-Williams-Gomez, Fire Prevention and Education Specialist, Bridger-Teton National Forest at lesley.williams@usda.gov or 307-739-5424.

Living with Wildfire in Teton County -
To provide you with the most effective assistance programs possible, we need to understand what you know about wildfire, your experiences with wildfire, as well as the characteristics of the property you cherish. Later this year, we will send you and your neighbors a survey in the mail to help us answer these questions. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, but we are only sampling a limited number of homes so the information you provide will help everyone prepare for future fires with accurate information and effective participatory programs. During this time when so many things are out of our control, this is one area where you can make an impact.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email or call Robb Sgroi, Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District at robb@tetonconservation.org or 307-733-2110. Additionally, please contact Robb if you are interested in a free and more in-depth Wildfire Risk Overview of your home and property.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Brady Hansen
Brady Hansen (Jun 26, 2020 08:31 MDT)
Brady Hansen
Fire Chief
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

ORMS
Robb Sgroi (Jun 19, 2020 16:35 MDT)
Robb Sgroi
Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District
Vice-Chair, Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
40 East Pearl Street, #901
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Teton County Resident,

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS and the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) are partnering with researchers at the University of Colorado and the Wildfire Research (WiRē) Center to send the "Living with Wildfire in Teton County in 2020" survey to residents in Teton County, Wyoming. To create the most effective programs possible, TAWPC needs to understand what you know about wildfire, your experiences with wildfire, as well as the characteristics of your property. We will share the final summary study results with local, state, and federal groups considering wildfire risk management.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and will take about 20 minutes. We realize your time is valuable and we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey.

When you return the survey, your name will be deleted from the mailing list and never connected to your answers in any way. After completing the survey, please fold it and put it in the postage paid return envelope. By returning the survey, you acknowledge your rights as a study participant (please see more details on the back of this letter). If you have any questions about the survey, please email or call Robb Sgroi, Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District at robb@tetonconservation.org or 307-733-2110. Additionally, please contact Robb if you are interested in a free and more in-depth Wildfire Risk Overview of your home and property.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Kathy Clay
Fire Marshal
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

Robb Sgroi
Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District
Vice-Chair, Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition

Your Rights as a Participant

We will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of the study data. We will never publish information about individuals who participate in the study; we will present research results in summary form and keep all records and data secure.

There are no foreseeable risks associated with your participation in the survey.

You may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this research and you would like to talk to the research team, please contact Dr. Hannah Brenkert-Smith at hannahb@colorado.edu. This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). You may talk to them at 303-735-3702 or irbadmin@colorado.edu if: your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team; you cannot reach the research team; you want to talk to someone besides the research team; you have questions about your rights as a research subject; or you want to get information or provide input about this research.

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
40 East Pearl Street, #901
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Teton County Resident,

We recently requested your participation in an important survey about Teton County and wildfire. Many residents have completed and returned the survey to us. However, we would like to hear from you so we can consider your opinions. If you have already returned the survey, thank you for your participation. If you have not yet responded, please complete and return the enclosed survey.

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS and the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) needs your help to develop more effective community wildfire programs. It is our goal to proactively confront wildfire preparedness issues before the smoke is in the air. The "Living with Wildfire in Teton County in 2020" survey is intended to take roughly 20 minutes.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. We realize your time is valuable and we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey.

When you return the survey, your name will be deleted from the mailing list and never connected to your answers in any way. After completing the survey, please fold it and put it in the postage paid return envelope. By returning the survey, you acknowledge your rights as a study participant (please see more details on the back of this letter).

If you have any questions about the survey, please email or call Robb Sgroi, Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District at robb@tetonconservation.org or 307-733-2110. Additionally, please contact Robb if you are interested in a free and more in-depth Wildfire Risk Overview of your home and property.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Kathy Clay
Fire Marshal
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

Robb Sgroi
Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District
Vice-Chair, Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition

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WiRēID

Living with Wildfire in Teton County in 2020

TAWPC
TETON AREA WILDFIRE PROTECTION COALITION

Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition
https://westernwyfac.org/

JACKSON HOLE FIRE EMS

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
http://www.tetonwyo.org/149/Jackson-Hole-FireEMS-Department

Section 1: In this first section of the survey, we ask about your home in Teton County. Please answer the following questions with respect to your ***Teton County home***.

When choosing a response, please fill in the circle completely. Correct: ● Incorrect: ⊘ ◉ ◔

1.1. Do you own or rent your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Own
- ○ Rent

1.2. What months do you occupy your Teton County home? (*Fill in all that apply*)

All 12 months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	No months
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

1.3. In what year did you move to your Teton County home? (*Fill in the blank*)

_____ Year moved to my Teton County home

1.4. In what year was your Teton County home originally built? (*Fill in the blank*)

_____ Year Teton County home was built

1.5. How aware of wildfire risk were you when you bought or decided to rent your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Very aware
- ○ Somewhat aware
- ○ Not aware
- ○ Don't remember

1

Section 2: In this section, we ask about your experience with, and preparation for, wildfire at your Teton County home.

2.1. What is the closest distance (as a crow flies) a wildfire has come to your Teton County property? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ There has been a wildfire on my property
- ○ Less than 2 miles away but not on my property
- ○ 2 to 10 miles away
- ○ More than 10 miles away
- ○ Not sure

2.2. Have you had any of the following wildfire experiences at your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes
I have evacuated from my Teton County home due to a wildfire or threat of a wildfire	○	○
My Teton County home has had smoke damage	○	○
My Teton County home has had wildfire damage	○	○
My Teton County home was destroyed by a wildfire	○	○

2.3. Do you currently have an evacuation plan in the event a wildfire threatens your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes	Not applicable
For the people in my household	○	○	
For the pets in my household and on my property	○	○	○
For livestock on my property	○	○	○

2

2.4. Have you completed any of the following actions to prepare for a wildfire **evacuation** and do you want more information about how to complete any of the actions? (*Fill in two circles per row, one for each question*)

	Completed action?		Want more information about action?	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Identify how I will be notified about an evacuation	○	○	○	○
Sign up for a wildfire evacuation notification system (Nixle)	○	○	○	○
Identify safe evacuation routes	○	○	○	○
Identify a location that my household will evacuate to (area of refuge)	○	○	○	○
Identify what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation	○	○	○	○
Discuss evacuation with my neighbors	○	○	○	○
Create a checklist for steps to take before evacuating	○	○	○	○
Identify a place to stay during a long-term evacuation (i.e. more than a few days)	○	○	○	○

2.5. Please tell us about your experiences with your **homeowners insurance** for your Teton County home. (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes	Don't know
Has your current or a previous insurance company ever provided information on reducing the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Did an insurance company ever refuse to provide or renew insurance because of the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Do you pay a higher premium for your insurance due to wildfire risk?	○	○	○
Do you receive a discount on your insurance premium because you have reduced wildfire risk on your property?	○	○	○
Do you think your home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company ever required you to take action to reduce wildfire risk in order to continue coverage?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company offered private firefighting services?	○	○	○

3

Section 3: In this section, we ask about the characteristics of your Teton County home and the area near your Teton County home.

3.1. Does your Teton County home have any of the following roofing materials? (*Fill in all that apply*)

- ○ Tile, metal, or asphalt shingles
- ○ Wood (shake shingles)

3.2. Does your Teton County home have any of the following exterior siding materials? (*Fill in all that apply*)

- ○ Stucco, cement, brick, stone, or other noncombustible siding
- ○ Log or heavy timbers
- ○ Wood or vinyl siding

3.3. Does your Teton County home have a combustible balcony, deck, porch, or fence attached to the structure? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes

3.4. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to combustible items other than vegetation such as lumber, firewood, a propane tank, hay bales, or other materials that could easily ignite? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ More than 30 feet or no combustible items
- ○ 5 – 30 feet
- ○ Less than 5 feet

4

3.5. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to overgrown, dense, or unmaintained vegetation? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ More than 100 feet
- ○ 30 – 100 feet
- ○ 5 – 29 feet
- ○ Less than 5 feet

3.6. Which of the following best describes the **majority** of vegetation on your Teton County property 100 to 150 feet from your home? That area might be outside your property boundary and include properties immediately surrounding you. (*Fill in one circle*)

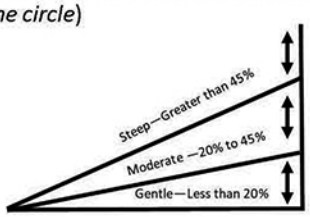
- ○ Grasses and scattered shrubs with minimal dead wood
- ○ Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees; occasional low hanging branches and dead wood
- ○ Dense shrubs and low hanging branches; continuous evergreens and moderate dead wood

3.7. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to a neighboring home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ More than 100 feet
- ○ 30 – 100 feet
- ○ 10 – 29 feet
- ○ Less than 10 feet

3.8. The "slope" or "grade" of a property refers to the steepness of the land. A large property may have steep, moderate, and gentle slopes. How would you describe the average slope within 150 feet of your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Steep – Greater than 45%
- ○ Moderate – 20% to 45%
- ○ Gentle – Less than 20%



5

3.9. What is the closest distance from your Teton County home to a ridge, steep drainage, or narrow canyon? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ More than 150 feet
- ○ 50 – 150 feet
- ○ Less than 50 feet

3.10. Do any of the following describe your driveway? My driveway... (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes
has an overhead obstruction (ex. tree limbs) lower than 13.5 feet	○	○
is narrower than 20 feet wide	○	○
is longer than 150 feet	○	○
has room for a fire truck to turn around	○	○

3.11. Is the address number of your Teton County home posted at the end of your driveway? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes →

	No	Yes
Is the posted number visible from the road? *(Fill in one circle)*	○	○
Is the posted number reflective? *(Fill in one circle)*	○	○

3.12. If the road you use to access your Teton County home was blocked due to a wildfire, is there another road you could use to get out of your community? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes

3.13. Properties in your community are assessed for overall wildfire risk based on the items asked about in questions 3.1 – 3.12 above. What do you think is your Teton County property's current overall wildfire risk rating? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Low risk
- ○ Moderate risk
- ○ High risk
- ○ Very high risk
- ○ Extreme risk

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Section 4: In this section, we ask about wildfire risk reduction activities.

4.1. Have you ever talked about wildfire issues with a neighbor? (*Fill in one circle*)

○ No

○ Yes

4.2. Have you done any of the following wildfire-related activities? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes
Reduced vegetation on my Teton County property (ex. cleared/pruned weeds, brush, and trees)	○	○
Regularly cleared my roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles	○	○
Regularly mowed and raked around my Teton County home	○	○
Made my Teton County home more fire resistant (ex. replaced roofing, siding, added hardscaping)	○	○
Helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation on their properties	○	○
Helped reduce vegetation on community property (ex. HOA, subdivision)	○	○
Helped reduce vegetation on nearby public lands (ex. county, state, federal lands)	○	○
Participated in a community wildfire activity (ex. meeting, chipper day, etc.)	○	○
Met with a wildfire professional at your home to evaluate and discuss your property's wildfire risk	○	○

4.3. How much do you think each of the following factors increases the chances of a wildfire damaging your Teton County property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	A lot	Somewhat	Not at all
Vegetation on my property	○	○	○
Physical characteristics of my house or other buildings (ex. roofing or siding) on my property	○	○	○
Vegetation on my neighbors' properties	○	○	○
Vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land	○	○	○
Lack of nearby water supply (ex. hydrant or cistern) for fire suppression	○	○	○

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4.4. How many of your immediate neighbors do you think have taken action to reduce wildfire risk on their properties (ex. removing dense vegetation or switching to noncombustible siding) (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ All my neighbors have taken action
- ○ Most of my neighbors have taken action
- ○ Some of my neighbors have taken action
- ○ None of my neighbors have taken action

4.5. How acceptable are the following approaches to **reducing wildfire risk** in Teton County to you? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
Removing trees and reducing other vegetation (thinning/fuel breaks) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire managers on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Managing a naturally ignited fire (lightning) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Adopting growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development in fire-prone areas in Teton County	○	○	○	○	○
Adopting building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas in Teton County	○	○	○	○	○
Adopting development standards that require vegetation management (ex. removing or thinning trees and mowing grass) on lots located in fire-prone areas in Teton County	○	○	○	○	○

4.6. Are you aware of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes

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Section 5: In this section, we ask about your notions, expectations, and risk perceptions related to wildfire.

5.1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
With proper technology, we can control most wildfires.	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten human life.	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten homes.	○	○	○	○	○
During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving forests.	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires are a natural part of the balance of a healthy forest/ecosystem.	○	○	○	○	○
I live here for the trees and will not remove any of them to reduce wildfire risk.	○	○	○	○	○
Managing the wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not mine.	○	○	○	○	○
Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective.	○	○	○	○	○
My property is at risk of wildfire.	○	○	○	○	○
My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is not effective because of the heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties.	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep the wildfire from spreading.	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes.	○	○	○	○	○
Firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect my home.	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires threaten my community water supply.	○	○	○	○	○
I plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires.	○	○	○	○	○
Development in fire-prone areas of Teton County increases the wildfire risk to my Teton County property.	○	○	○	○	○

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5.2. If there is a wildfire on your Teton County property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Slightly likely	Not at all likely	Not applicable
I would put the fire out.	○	○	○	○	○	○
The fire department would save my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have smoke damage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have some physical damage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would be destroyed.	○	○	○	○	○	○
I would lose money due to the loss of business or income on my property.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My trees and landscape would burn.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Direct flame would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Embers would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nearby homes would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○

5.3. What do you think is the chance that a wildfire will be on your Teton County property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure — No chance

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

5.4. If there is a wildfire on your property **in the next 12 months**, what do you think is the chance that it will destroy or severely damage your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure — No chance

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Section 6: In this section, we ask where you get information about wildfire, how useful the information is, how you receive information, and how you would like to receive information.

6.1. The following sources provide information about wildfire risk. If you have received information from one of these sources, how useful has it been? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Fill in this circle if you have **NOT** received information from this source
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community group (ex. homeowners association)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community wildfire ambassador	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local arborist/contractor	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local government	○	○	○	○	○	○
Firewise USA®	○	○	○	○	○	○
Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition	○	○	○	○	○	○
Teton Conservation District	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ready, Set, Go! program	○	○	○	○	○	○
Teton County Emergency Management	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wyoming State Forestry	○	○	○	○	○	○
USDA Forest Service (Bridger-Teton National Forest)	○	○	○	○	○	○
National Park Service	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bureau of Land Management	○	○	○	○	○	○
Media	○	○	○	○	○	○

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6.2. How do you currently receive information about wildfire risk reduction and how would you prefer to receive information? Please answer **both** questions for each row.
(*Fill in two circles per row, one for each question*)

	I receive information about how to reduce wildfire risk on my property by...		I prefer to receive information about how to reduce wildfire risk by...	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Email/e-newsletter	○	○	○	○
Mailed newsletter	○	○	○	○
Community meetings	○	○	○	○
In-person interactions	○	○	○	○
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor)	○	○	○	○
Internet (non-social media)	○	○	○	○
TV news	○	○	○	○
Newspaper	○	○	○	○
Radio	○	○	○	○

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Section 7: In this section, we would like to know why you do or do not take action to reduce the risk of wildfire to your Teton County property.

7.1. Do any of the following **prevent you** from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Teton County property (ex. cutting trees, changing roof/siding? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

Personal resources	Financial cost ○	Time to do the work ○	Physical ability to do the work ○	None of these ○
Lack of specific information about...	The factors contributing to my property's wildfire risk ○	How to reduce wildfire risk on my property ○	Where to dispose of vegetation/slash ○	None of these ○
Personal perspectives	I do not want to change the way my property looks ○	I do not think taking action would reduce my property's wildfire risk ○	It's a low priority to me ○	None of these ○
Community	Lack of options for disposing vegetation/slash ○	Restrictions on the changes I can make to my property ○	Social pressure from neighbors ○	None of these ○

7.2. Would any of the following **encourage you** to take action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Teton County property? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

Resources	Cost-share or financial assistance ○	Help doing the work ○	Recommended contractors ○	None of these ○
Information	A report describing my property's wildfire risk factors ○	Videos showing how to reduce risk on a property in my area ○	One-on-one visit with wildfire risk experts on my property ○	None of these ○
Other	Feedback on the work I've done to reduce my property's risk ○	Recognition for taking action ○	Neighborhood group that organizes wildfire risk-reduction activities ○	None of these ○

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Section 8: In this section, we ask about personal and household characteristics. Your name will never be connected to your answers in any way.

8.1. In general, do you view yourself as someone who is not at all willing to take risks or very willing to take risks? (*Fill in one circle*)

Very willing to take risks										Not at all willing to take risks
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

8.2. What is your age? (*Fill in the blank*)

_____ years old

8.3. Are you? (*Fill in one circle*)

○ Male

○ Female

8.4. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? (*Fill in one circle*)

○ Less than high school

○ High school graduate

○ Some college or technical school

○ Technical or trade school

○ College graduate

○ Some graduate work

○ Advanced degree (M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

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8.5. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Employed full time (including self-employed)
- ○ Employed part time (including self-employed)
- ○ Unemployed or do not work outside of the home
- ○ Retired

8.6. Which of the following categories describes your annual household income? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Less than $15,000
- ○ $15,000 - $24,999
- ○ $25,000 – $34,999
- ○ $35,000 - $49,999
- ○ $50,000 - $74,999
- ○ $75,000 - $99,999
- ○ $100,000 - $149,999
- ○ $150,000 - $199,999
- ○ $200,000 or more

Thank you for your help. Please use the space below to write any additional comments. If you would like to schedule an onsite visit with a wildfire professional to learn how you can reduce risk on your property, contact Robb Sgroi at robb@tetonconservation.org or 307-733-2110.

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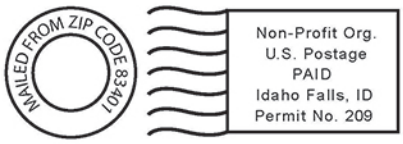
The Wildfire Research Center
8117 Alfalfa Ct
Niwot, CO 80503



Dear Teton County Resident,
Thank you for your participation in the "Living with Wildfire in Teton County in 2020" survey. We value your opinions. The information you provide is very important for the development of programs to reduce the risk of losses due to catastrophic wildfire. If you have not had a chance to complete and mail the survey, please do so today.

If you have recently returned the survey, thank you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Clay
Fire Marshal
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

Robb Sgroi
Land Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District
Vice Chair, Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition

APPENDIX B: Wildlife Research Center (WiRē) Rapid Assessment (rapid assessment) and Community Wildfire Risk Evaluation Form Information

WiRē Rapid Assessment Form

	Attribute	Attribute description	Response categories	Attribute weight	Category score
Access	Address posting	Does the address sign meet all of the standards as identified in the Assessor Reference Guide?	Yes, fully meets standard. (Minumum is posted and reflective)	1%	0
			Address sign is visible, but **does not meet all** standards		5
			No, not posted/visible from the primary road		10
	Ingress/Egress	If the road to access the home was blocked due to a wildfire, is there another road to get out of the community?	Yes, two or more roads in/out	1%	0
			No, one road in/out		10
			Unknown - not observed		11
	Driveway clearance	Does the driveway meet the horizontal and vertical clearance standards as identified in the Assessor Reference Guide?	Yes, meets driveway standards: height at least 13.5' and width at least 20'	1%	0
			Meets one, but not both, standards: height at least 13.5' and or width at least 20'		5
			Does not meet either standard (height and width)		10
			Unknown - not observed		11
	Driveway length	What best describes the driveway?	Less than 150' long	1%	0
			150' or more **with** "adequate" turnaround		5
			150' or more **without** "adequate" turnaround		10
			Unknown - not observed		11
Background Conditions	Distance to dangerous topography	What is the closest distance from the home to a ridge, steep drainage, or narrow canyon?	More than 150'	5%	0
			50' - 150'		25
			Less than 50'		50
			Unknown - not observed		51
	Slope	The "slope" or "grade" of a property refers to the steepness of the land. A large property may have steep, moderate, and gentle slopes. How would you describe the overall slope of the property?	Gentle - Less than 20%	2%	0
			Moderate - Between 20% - 45%		10
			Steep - Greater than 45%		20
			Unknown - not observed		21
	Adjacent fuels	Which of the following best describes the dominant vegetation 100' - 150' from the home. *This may be outside the property boundary.*	Light - Grasses and forbs with scattered shrubs to 4 foot height; evidence of maintenance with ladder fuels trimmed and minimal dead wood or dead fall	4%	10
			Medium - As above plus taller shrubs, scattered deciduous trees and occasional conifers; less maintenance with ladder fuels present and occasional dead shrubs/trees and dead fall		20
			Dense - As above with additional dense clumped shrubs, obvious ladder fuels and conifers contiguous with adjacent forest canopy; no significant maintenance and moderate+ dead vegetation/dead fall		40
			Unknown - not observed		41
Defensible Space	Defensible Space	What is the closest distance from the home to overgrown, dense, or unmaintained vegetation?	More than 100'	10%	0
			30' - 100'		50
			5' - 29'		75
			Less than 5'		100
			Unknown - not observed		101
	Other combustibles	What is the closest distance from the home to combustible items *other than vegetation* such as lumber, firewood, a propane tank, hay bales, or other materials that could easily ignite?	More than 30' or no combustible items	8%	0
			5' - 30'		40
			Less than 5'		80
			Unknown - not observed		81
Home Ignition Potential	Roofing materials	What is the most vulnerable roofing material?	Tile, metal, or asphalt shingles	30%	0
			Wood (shake shingles)		300
			Unknown - not observed		301
	Building exterior	What is the most vulnerable exterior siding material?	Stucco, cement, brick, stone, or other noncombustible siding	7%	0
			Log or heavy timbers		35
			Wood or vinyl siding		70
			Unknown - not observed		71
	Combustible attachments	Does the home have a combustible balcony, deck, porch, or fence attached to the structure?	No	10%	0
			Yes		100
			Unknown - not observed		101
	Proximity to adjacent structures	What is the closest distance to a neighboring home?	More than 100'	20%	0
			30' - 100'		50
			10' - 29' away		100
			Less than 10'		200
			Unknown - not observed		201
			Total checks	100%	1000

APPENDIX C: Comparison of rapid assessment and Household Survey

The Wildfire Research Center
WiRē

Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition Rapid Assessment Compared to Household Survey Responses

The Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) conducted parcel-level rapid wildfire risk assessments (RAs) in 2020 and administered a household survey in 2021. All the data from the 725 rapid assessments and 258 household surveys in the study area were compiled into a dataset (740 records) containing three types of data: properties for which we have both rapid assessments and household surveys (243 records), properties for which we have only a rapid assessment (482 records), and properties for which we have only a household survey (15 records).

The results presented in this document focus on the entire study area, which comprises five communities. In the study area there are 243 paired RA and household survey data, which are the foundation for the results presented below.

Section 1 compares (1) the professional's and household survey respondent's overall risk rating and (2) the professional's responses to the 13 risk attributes in the RA and the household survey respondent's self-assessment for all the risk attributes. These comparisons are presented as graphs, where the first bar shows the professional risk rating, and the second bar presents the homeowners' self-assessment.

Section 2 presents tables that compare the professional RA results for all RA data in the study area, the subset with the RA data for parcels that returned a household survey, and the results of self-assessed risk from the household survey. Most of this information is also presented in the graphs. Only the first column, for all RA data, is new.

Both sections are organized by overall risk rating and then the risk categories of access, background conditions, defensible space, and home ignition potential.

A note on statistical interpretation

For comparison of A) all RAs to B) the subset of RAs for parcels that returned the household survey, we include results from a Wilcoxon rank sum test, which tests the hypothesis that the attribute distributions for all RA data are the same as that of the subset of RA data. For comparison of B) the subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey to C) the self-assessment from household surveys, we include results from a Wilcoxon matched-paired signed-rank test, which tests the hypothesis that the matched pairs follow the same distributions for both datasets. For both tests, a p-value less than 0.05 suggests that the compared distributions are different. Results are described in italics in each table.

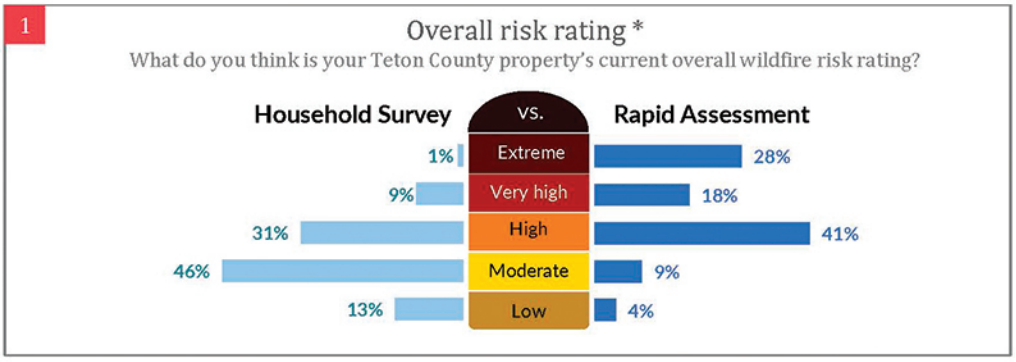
** This project was partially funding by USDA Forest Service, Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management and Co-Management of Fire Risk Transmission Project. Funding for the household survey administration came from the Teton Conservation District.*
**All data received and processed as of July 23, 2021*
**Document prepared January 21, 2022*

Summary of results

- The majority of survey respondents (59%) rated the parcel's overall risk as either low (13%) or moderate (46%). However, for the subset of RAs for which we have a household survey, professionals rated just 13% of the parcels in the low or moderate category. The distribution of response for the overall risk rating is statistically different between the subset of RAs for which we have a household survey and the survey self-assessments.
- There are also statistical differences between the subset of RAs for which we have a household survey and survey self-assessment for most (9 out of 13) risk attributes, in addition to the overall risk. Generally, self-assessments of the risk attributes are lower than the professional RA rating. For example, 33% of homeowners estimated their parcel's defensible space to be more than 100 feet, the least risky category, while RA data places only 9% of parcels into that category.

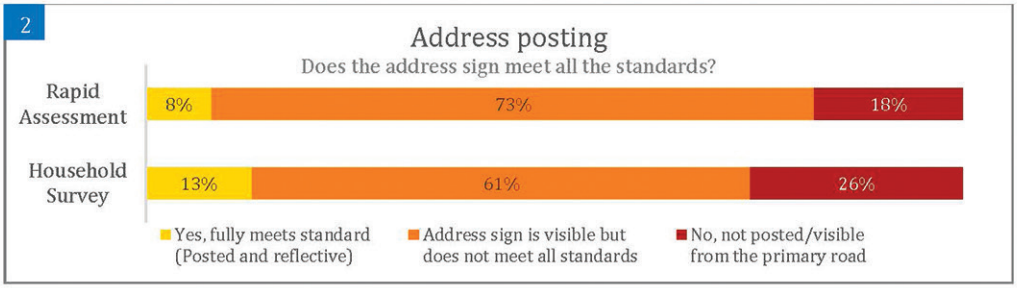
1. Comparison of paired WiRē Rapid Assessment vs. Household Survey

1.1. Overall risk rating

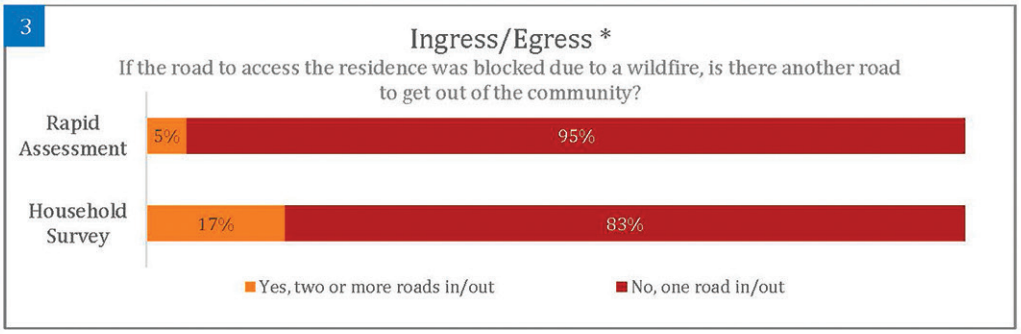


These two distributions are statistically different. *N=240.*

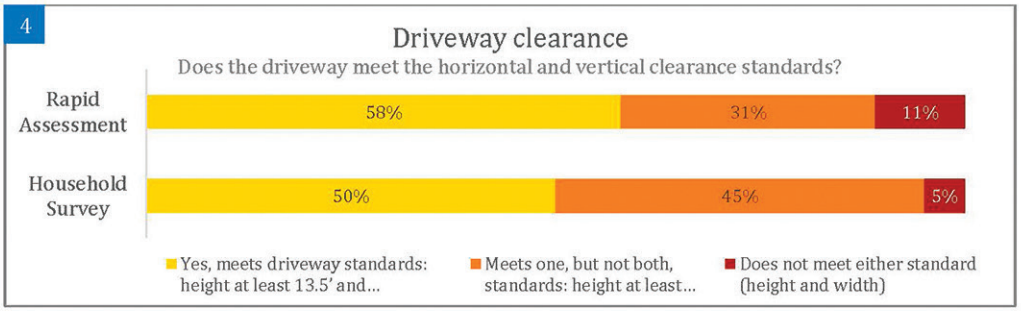
1.2. Access



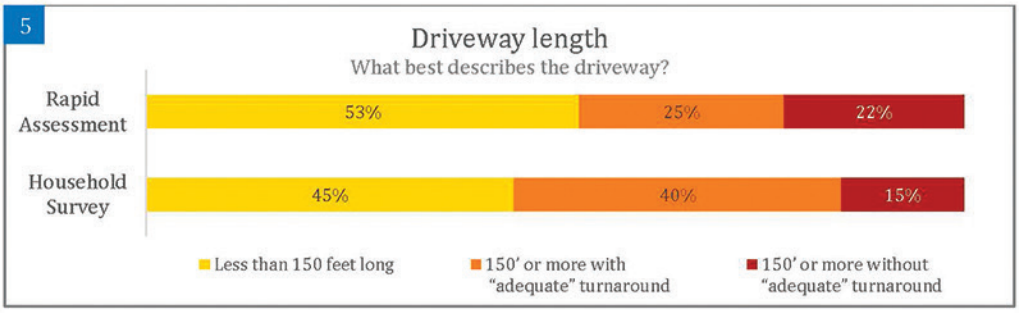
These two distributions are NOT statistically different. *N=233.*



**** These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=238.*

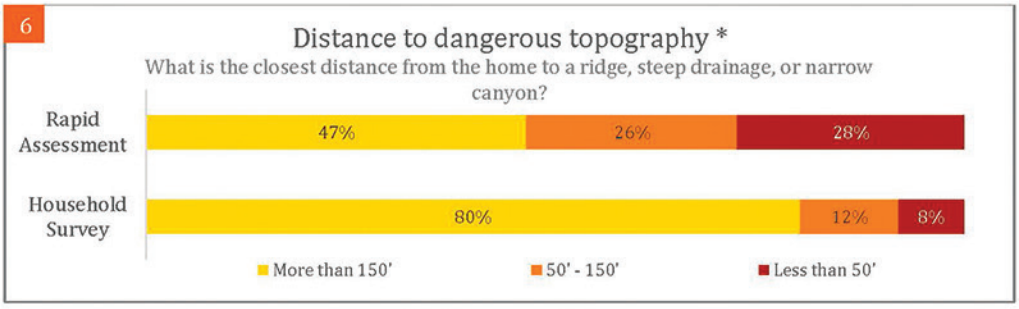


These two distributions are statistically different. *N=219.*

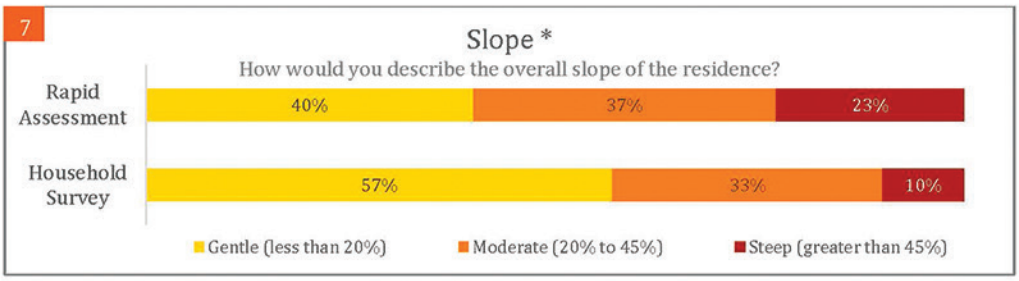


These two distributions are NOT statistically different. *N=229.*

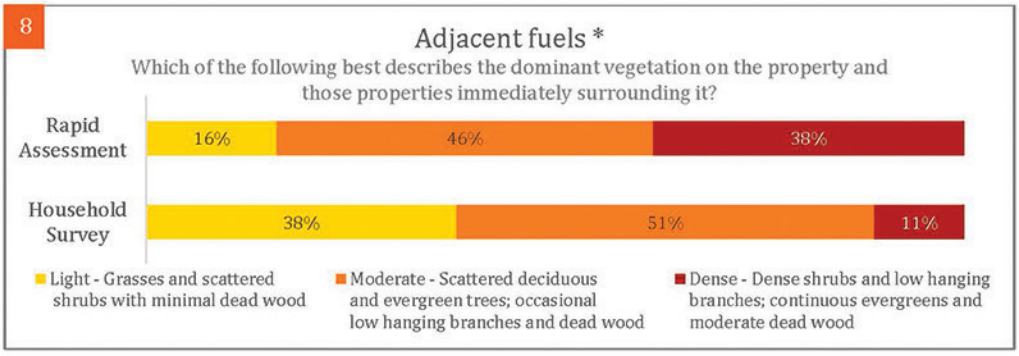
1.3. Background conditions



*** These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=242.*

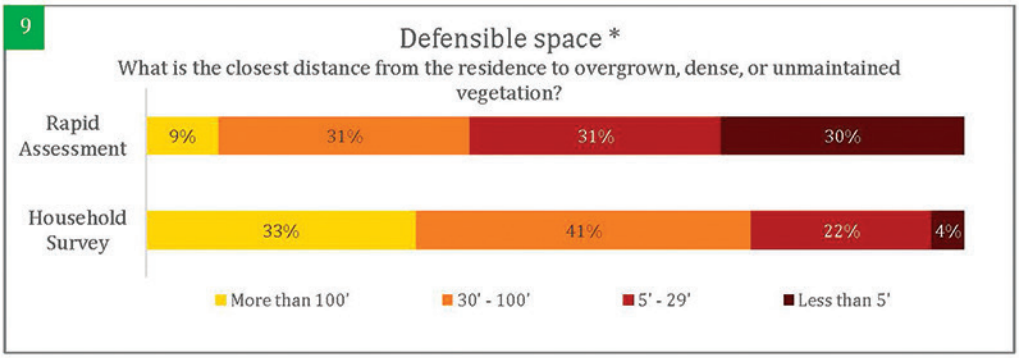


*** These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=239.*

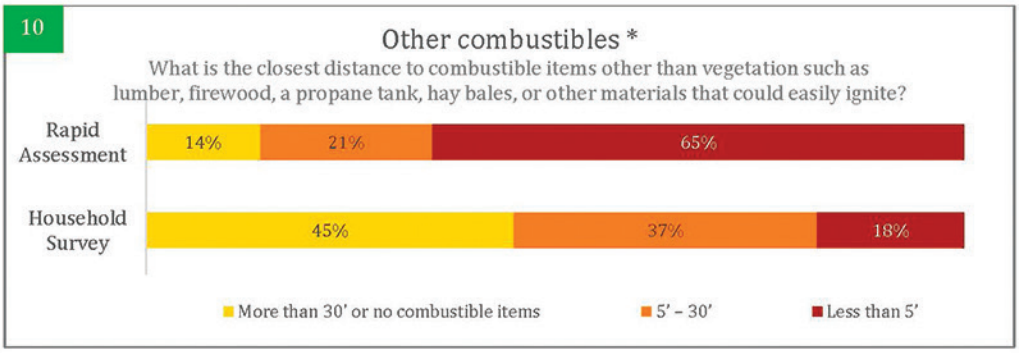


* ***These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=240.*

1.4. Defensible space

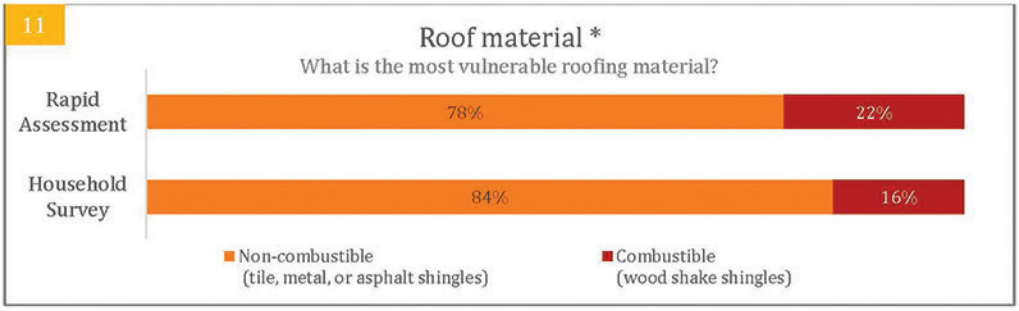


* ***These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=240.*

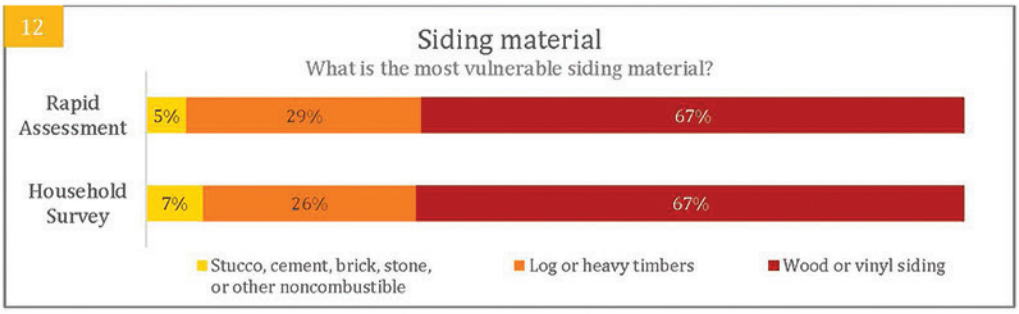


These two distributions are statistically different. *N=240.*

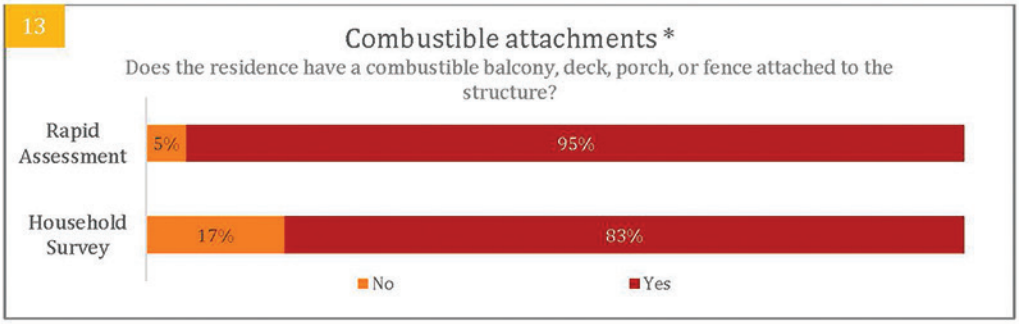
1.5. Home ignition potential



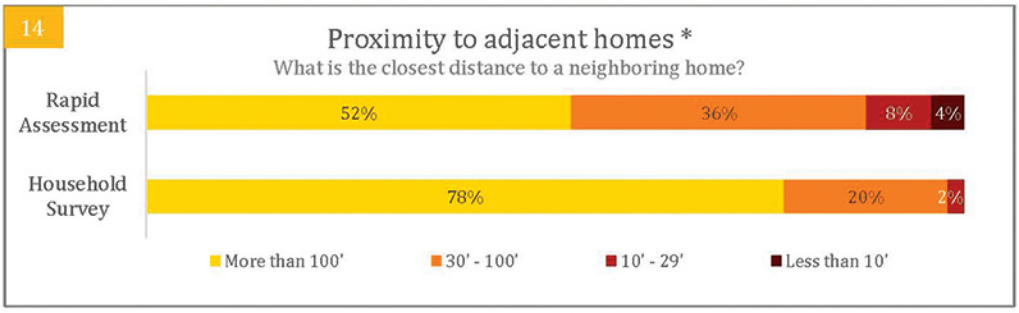
These two distributions are statistically different. *N=239.*



These two distributions are NOT statistically different. *N=242.*



* ***These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=242.*



* ***These two distributions are statistically different.*** *N=241.*

2. Comparison of all Rapid Assessments vs. paired Rapid Assessment and Household Survey

2.1. Overall risk rating

Overall risk rating:
Risk assessment (RA) is based on the sum of the 13 attribute scores. Homeowner's self-assessment response to: What do you think is your Teton County property's current overall wildfire risk rating?

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=240)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=240)
		These two columns are statistically different	
Low	3%	4%	13%
Moderate	8%	9%	46%
High	38%	41%	31%
Very high	17%	18%	9%
Extreme	34%	28%	1%

2.2. Access

Risk attribute: Address Posting Does the address sign meet all the standards? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=233)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=233)**
		These two columns are NOT statistically different	
Yes, fully meets standard (Posted and reflective)	7%	8%	13%
Address sign is visible but does not meet all standards	68%	73%	61%
No, not posted/visible from the primary road	24%	18%	26%

Risk attribute: Ingress/Egress If the road to access the residence was blocked due to a wildfire, is there another road to get out of the community? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=238)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=238)**
		These two columns are statistically different	
Yes, two or more roads in/out	8%	5%	17%
No, one road in/out	92%	95%	83%

Risk attribute: Driveway clearance Does the driveway meet the horizontal and vertical clearance standards? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=219)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=219)**
		These two columns are NOT statistically different	
Yes, meets driveway standards: height at least 13.5′ and width at least 20′	56%	58%	50%
Meets one, but not both, standards: height at least 13.5′ or width at least 20′	28%	31%	45%
Does not meet either standard (height and width)	16%	11%	5%

Risk attribute: Driveway length What best describes the driveway? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=229)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=229)**
		These two columns are NOT statistically different	
Less than 150 feet long	53%	53%	45%
150′ or more with "adequate" turnaround	22%	25%	40%
150′ or more without "adequate" turnaround	25%	22%	15%

2.3. Background conditions

Risk attribute: Distance to dangerous topography
What is the closest distance from the home to a ridge, steep drainage, or narrow canyon? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=242)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=242)
		These two columns are statistically different	
More than 150'	44%	47%	80%
50' - 150'	27%	26%	12%
Less than 50'	28%	28%	8%

Risk attribute: Slope
The "slope" or "grade" of a property refers to the steepness of the land. A large property may have steep, moderate, and gentle slopes. How would you describe the overall slope of the residence? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=239)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=239)
		These two columns are statistically different	
Gentle (less than 20%)	37%	40%	57%
Moderate (20% to 45%)	37%	37%	33%
Steep (greater than 45%)	26%	23%	10%

Risk attribute: Adjacent Fuels Which of the following best describes the dominant vegetation on the property and those properties immediately surrounding it? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=240)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=240)**
		These two columns are statistically different	
Light - Grasses and scattered shrubs with minimal dead wood	15%	16%	38%
Moderate - Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees; occasional low hanging branches and dead wood	42%	46%	51%
Dense - Dense shrubs and low hanging branches; continuous evergreens and moderate dead wood	43%	38%	11%

2.4. Defensible space

Risk attribute: Defensible Space What is the closest distance from the residence to overgrown, dense, or unmaintained vegetation? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.			
Response categories	**All RAs in study area (N=725)**	**Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=240)**	**Self-assessment from household surveys (N=240)**
		These two columns are statistically different	
More than 100'	9%	9%	33%
30' - 100'	25%	31%	41%
5' - 29'	33%	31%	22%
Less than 5'	33%	30%	4%

Risk attribute: Other combustibles
What is the closest distance to combustible items other than vegetation such as lumber, firewood, a propane tank, hay bales, or other materials that could easily ignite? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=240)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=240)
		These two columns are statistically different	
More than 30' or no combustible items	11%	14%	45%
5' – 30'	20%	21%	37%
Less than 5'	69%	65%	18%

2.5. Home ignition potential

Risk attribute: Roof
What is the most vulnerable roofing material? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=239)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=239)
		These two columns are statistically different	
Non-combustible (tile, metal, or asphalt shingles)	71%	78%	84%
Combustible (wood shake shingles)	29%	22%	16%

Risk attribute: Siding
What is the most vulnerable siding material? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=242)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=242)
		These two columns are NOT statistically different	
Stucco, cement, brick, stone, or other noncombustible	4%	5%	7%
Log or heavy timbers	30%	29%	26%
Wood or vinyl siding	66%	67%	67%

Risk attribute: Combustible Attachments (e.g., Balcony, Decking, Fencing)
Does the residence have a combustible balcony, deck, porch, or fence attached to the structure? Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=242)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=242)
		These two columns are statistically different	
No	4%	5%	17%
Yes	96%	95%	83%

Risk attribute: Proximity to adjacent homes
What is the closest distance to a neighboring home? (Note: Distance to a neighboring home was calculated in GIS for records with unobserved data). Comparison of risk assessment (RA) and household survey assessment.

Response categories	All RAs in study area (N=725)	Subset of RAs for parcels that returned a household survey (N=241)	Self-assessment from household surveys (N=241)
		These two columns are statistically different	
More than 100'	50%	52%	78%
30' – 100'	34%	36%	20%
10' – 29'	10%	8%	2%
Less than 10'	6%	4%	0%

APPENDIX D: Teton County Household Survey Codebook

Living with Wildfire in Teton County in 2020

Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition
https://westernwyfac.org/

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
http://www.tetonwyo.org/149/Jackson-Hole-FireEMS-Department

Entered survey responses: 258**n = number of observations**
Response rate: 38%
Blue numbers are percent responses (might not total to 100% due to rounding)
Red ALL CAPS are variable names
Please note: We encourage use of this survey instrument for applied, research, and/or publication purposes but request to be notified before any such use at:
info@wildfireresearchcenter.org

** This project was partially funding by USDA Forest Service, Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management and Co-Management of Fire Risk Transmission Project. Funding for the household survey administration came from the Teton Conservation District.*
**All data received and processed as of July 23, 2021*
**Document prepared January 7, 2022*

Section 1: In this first section of the survey, we ask about your home in Teton County. Please answer the following questions with respect to your ***Teton County home***.

When choosing a response, please fill in the circle completely. Correct: ● Incorrect: ⊘ ⊗ ◐ ◔

OWNRENT (n=254)

1.1. Do you own or rent your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

99% Own

1% Rent

1.2. What months do you occupy your Teton County home? (*Fill in all that apply*)

N=254	ALL_MONTHS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	NO_MONTHS
	All 12 months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	No months
	72%	82%	81%	82%	79%	86%	92%	94%	94%	94%	85%	76%	81%	2%

FULLTIME (n=253)

1.3. In what year did you move to your Teton County home? (*Fill in the blank*)

AVERAGE = 2001

YRBUILD (n=248)

1.4. In what year was your Teton County home originally built? (*Fill in the blank*)

AVERAGE = 1986

RISKAWAR (n=255)

1.5. How aware of wildfire risk were you when you bought or decided to rent your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

46% Very aware

40% Somewhat aware

11% Not aware

3% Don't remember

1

Section 2: In this section, we ask about your experience with, and preparation for, wildfire at your Teton County home.

FIRE (n=256)

2.1. What is the closest distance (as a crow flies) a wildfire has come to your Teton County property? (*Fill in one circle*)

4%	There has been a wildfire on my property
42%	Less than 2 miles away but not on my property
40%	2 to 10 miles away
9%	More than 10 miles away
5%	Not sure

2.2. Has your Teton County home ever had smoke or fire damage from a wildfire? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes
EVACUATED (n=252)	I have evacuated from my Teton County home due to a wildfire or threat of a wildfire	70%	30%
SMOKEDAM (n=246)	My Teton County home has had smoke damage	98%	2%
FIREDAM (n=246)	My Teton County home has had wildfire damage	98%	2%
DESTROY (n=246)	My Teton County home was destroyed by a wildfire	99%	1%

2.3. Do you currently have an evacuation plan in the event a wildfire threatens your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes	Not applicable
EVACPPL (n=255)	For the people in my household	36%	64%	
EVACPETS (n=251)	For the pets in my household and on my property	31%	41%	27%
EVACLIVSTOC (n=244)	For livestock on my property	13%	6%	81%

2.4. Have you completed any of the following actions to prepare for a wildfire **evacuation** and do you want more information about how to complete any of the actions? (*Fill in two circles per row, one for each question*)

		Completed action? No	Completed action? Yes		Want more information about the action? No	Want more information about the action? Yes
Identify how I will be notified about an evacuation	EVACACT1 (n=179)	30%	70%	EVACINFO1 (n=245)	51%	49%
Sign up for a wildfire evacuation notification system (Nixle)	EVACACT2 (n=168)	40%	60%	EVACINFO2 (n=243)	45%	55%
Identify safe evacuation routes	EVACACT3 (n=154)	47%	53%	EVACINFO3 (n=240)	29%	71%
Identify a location that my household will evacuate to (area of refuge)	EVACACT4 (n=155)	48%	52%	EVACINFO4 (n=243)	48%	52%
Identify what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation	EVACACT5 (n=159)	46%	54%	EVACINFO5 (n=245)	42%	58%
Discuss evacuation with my neighbors	EVACACT6 (n=149)	56%	44%	EVACINFO6 (n=245)	73%	27%
Create a checklist for steps to take before evacuating	EVACACT7 (n=169)	29%	71%	EVACINFO7 (n=244)	81%	19%
Identify a place to stay during a long-term evacuation (i.e. more than a few days)	EVACACT8 (n=155)	61%	39%	EVACINFO8 (n=241)	48%	52%

2.5. Please tell us about your experiences with your **homeowners insurance** for your Teton County home. (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes	DK
INSURE2 (n=256)	Has your current or a previous homeowners insurance company ever provided information on reducing the risk of wildfire?	59%	24%	17%
INSURE3 (n=256)	Did an insurance company ever refuse to provide or renew homeowners insurance because of the risk of wildfire?	88%	10%	2%
INSURE4 (n=254)	Do you pay a higher premium for your homeowners insurance due to wildfire risk?	30%	22%	48%
INSURE10 (n=254)	Do you receive a discount on your homeowners insurance premium because you have reduced wildfire risk on your property?	62%	8%	30%
INSURE12 (n=256)	Do you think your home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire?	17%	66%	17%
INSURE13 (n=256)	Has your current insurance company ever required you to take action to reduce wildfire risk in order to continue coverage?	91%	6%	3%
INSURE14 (n=256)	Has your current insurance company offered private firefighting services?	90%	5%	5%

3

Section 3: In this section, we ask about the characteristics of your Teton County home and the area near your Teton County home.

3.1. Does your Teton County home have any of the following roofing materials? (*Fill in all that apply*)

		No	Yes
ROOFTYPE1 (n=254)	Tile, metal, or asphalt shingles	13%	87%
ROOFTYPE2 (n=254)	Wood (shake shingles)	85%	15%

3.2. Does your Teton County home have any of the following exterior siding materials? (*Fill in all that apply*)

		No	Yes
SIDETYPE1 (n=257)	Stucco, cement, brick, stone, or other noncombustible siding	68%	32%
SIDETYPE2 (n=257)	Log or heavy timbers	60%	40%
SIDETYPE3 (n=257)	Wood or vinyl siding	32%	68%

ATTACHCOMB (n=257)

3.3. Does your Teton County home have a combustible balcony, deck, porch, or fence attached to the structure? (*Fill in one circle*)

17% No
83% Yes

COMBUST_A (n=255)

3.4. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to combustible items other than vegetation such as lumber, firewood, a propane tank, hay bales, or other materials that could easily ignite? (*Fill in one circle*)

44% More than 30 feet or no combustible items
38% 5 – 30 feet
19% Less than 5 feet

CLOSEVEG_A (n=255)

3.5. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to overgrown, dense, or unmaintained vegetation? (*Fill in one circle*)

32% More than 100 feet
41% 30 – 100 feet
23% 5 – 29 feet
4% Less than 5 feet

4

DOMVEG_A (n=255)

3.6. Which of the following best describes the **majority** of vegetation on your Teton County property and those properties immediately surrounding you? That area might be outside your property boundary. (*Fill in one circle*)

38% Grasses and scattered shrubs with minimal dead wood

51% Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees; occasional low hanging branches and dead wood

11% Dense shrubs and low hanging branches; continuous evergreens and moderate dead wood

CLOSEHOME (n=256)

3.7. What is the **closest** distance from your Teton County home to a neighboring home? (*Fill in one circle*)

77% More than 100 feet

21% 30 - 100 feet

2% 10 – 29 feet

0% Less than 10 feet

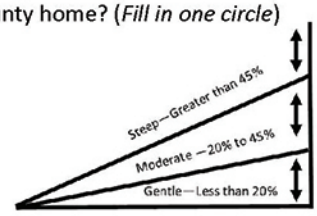
SLOPE (n=253)

3.8. The "slope" or "grade" of a property refers to the steepness of the land. How would you describe the slope within 150 feet of your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

10% Steep – Greater than 45%

32% Moderate – 20% to 45%

57% Gentle – Less than 20%



RIDGE (n=256)

3.9. What is the closest distance from your Teton County home to a ridge, steep drainage, or narrow canyon? (*Fill in one circle*)

81% More than 150 feet

12% 50 – 150 feet

7% Less than 50 feet

3.10 Do any of the following describe your driveway? My driveway... (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes
DRIVEWAYV (n=237)	has an overhead obstruction (ex. tree limbs) lower than 13.5 feet	93%	7%
DRIVEWAYW_B (n=244)	is narrower than 20 feet wide	49%	51%
DRIVEWAYL_A (n=246)	is longer than 150 feet	42%	58%
TURNARND_A (n=252)	has room for a fire truck to turn around	40%	60%

HOMENUM (n=223)

3.11 Is the address number of your Teton County home posted at the end of your driveway? (*Fill in one circle*)

29% No

71% Yes →

	No	Yes
HOMENUMVIS (n=212) Is the posted number visible from the road? *(Fill in one circle)*	7%	93%
REFLECT (n=209) Is the posted number reflective? *(Fill in one circle)*	84%	16%

ROADS (n=253)

3.12 If the road you use to access your Teton County home was blocked due to a wildfire, is there another road you could use to get out of your community? (*Fill in one circle*)

83% No

17% Yes

RISKRATE (n=255)

3.13 Properties in your community are assessed for overall wildfire risk based on the items asked about in questions 3.1 – 3.13 above. What do you think is your Teton County property's current overall wildfire risk rating? (*Fill in one circle*)

13% Low risk

47% Moderate risk

31% High risk

9% Very high risk

1% Extreme risk

6

Section 4: In this section, we ask about wildfire risk reduction activities.

TALKFIRE (n=255)

4.1. Have you ever talked about wildfire issues with a neighbor? (*Fill in one circle*)

32% No
68% Yes

4.2. Have you done any of the following wildfire-related activities? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes
ACTIVITIES1 (n=255)	Reduced vegetation on my Teton County property (ex. cleared/pruned weeds, brush, and trees)	11%	89%
ACTIVITIES7 (n=236)	Regularly cleared my roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles	25%	75%
ACTIVITIES8 (n=252)	Regularly mowed and raked around my Teton County home	11%	89%
ACTIVITIES2 (n=251)	Made my Teton County home more fire resistant (ex. replaced roofing, siding, added hardscaping)	49%	51%
ACTIVITIES3 (n=254)	Helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation on their properties	77%	23%
ACTIVITIES4 (n=253)	Helped reduce vegetation on community property (ex. HOA, subdivision)	79%	21%
ACTIVITIES5 (n=253)	Helped reduce vegetation on nearby public lands (ex. county, state, federal lands)	88%	12%
ACTIVITIES6 (n=253)	Participated in a community wildfire activity (ex. meeting, chipper day, etc.)	73%	27%
ACTIVITIES9 (n=251)	Met with a wildfire professional at your home to evaluate and discuss your property's wildfire risk	52%	48%

4.3. How much do you think each of the following factors contributes to the chances of a wildfire damaging your Teton County property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		A lot	Somewhat	Not at all
CONTRIB1 (n=254)	Vegetation on my property	20%	58%	22%
CONTRIB2 (n=253)	Physical characteristics of my house or other buildings (ex. roofing or siding) on my property	23%	56%	21%
CONTRIB3 (n=253)	Vegetation on my neighbors' properties	25%	57%	19%
CONTRIB4 (n=253)	Vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land	42%	47%	11%
CONTRIB5 (n=252)	Lack of nearby water supply (ex. hydrant or cistern) for fire suppression	46%	34%	19%

7

NEIGHBORACT (n=245)

4.4. How many of your immediate neighbors do you think have taken action to reduce wildfire risk on their properties (ex. removing dense vegetation or switching to noncombustible siding) (*Fill in one circle*)

13%	All my neighbors have taken action
60%	Most of my neighbors have taken action
22%	Some of my neighbors have taken action
5%	None of my neighbors have taken action

4.5. How acceptable to you are the following approaches to reducing wildfire risk on nearby public lands? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
ACCEPT1 (n=254)	Removing trees and reducing other vegetation (thinning/fuel breaks) on nearby public lands	41%	33%	18%	6%	2%
ACCEPT2 (n=254)	Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles) on nearby public lands	45%	35%	13%	5%	3%
ACCEPT3 (n=255)	Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire managers on nearby public lands	33%	32%	22%	8%	5%
ACCEPT4 (n=254)	Managing a naturally ignited fire (lightning) on nearby public lands	44%	33%	13%	7%	4%
ACCEPT6 (n=252)	Adopting growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development in fire-prone areas in Teton County	35%	32%	17%	10%	7%
ACCEPT7 (n=252)	Adopting building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas in Teton County	36%	33%	20%	7%	5%
ACCEPT8 (n=252)	Adopting development standards that require vegetation management (ex. removing or thinning trees and mowing grass) on lots located in fire-prone areas in Teton County	29%	33%	23%	7%	8%

PROJECTAWAR_WR015 (n=253)

4.6. Are you aware of the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project? (*Fill in one circle*)

79%	No
21%	Yes

8

Section 5: In this section, we ask about your notions, expectations, and risk perceptions related to wildfire.

5.1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
STATE2 (n=250)	With proper technology, we can control most wildfires.	5%	24%	26%	38%	7%
STATE3 (n=253)	We should put out wildfires that threaten human life.	57%	37%	5%	1%	1%
STATE4a (n=254)	We should put out wildfires that threaten homes.	46%	43%	8%	2%	1%
STATE5 (n=252)	During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving forests.	33%	40%	24%	2%	1%
STATE6 (n=254)	Wildfires are a natural part of the balance of a healthy forest/ecosystem.	50%	43%	6%	0%	1%
STATE11 (n=254)	I live here for the trees and will not remove any of them to reduce wildfire risk.	2%	3%	18%	46%	30%
STATE13 (n=254)	Managing the wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not mine.	1%	6%	17%	52%	25%
STATE14 (n=253)	Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective.	1%	2%	4%	57%	36%
STATE15 (n=253)	My property is at risk of wildfire.	16%	53%	19%	11%	1%
STATE17 (n=254)	My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is ineffective because of the heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties.	4%	11%	31%	47%	7%
STATE19 (n=254)	Local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep the wildfire from spreading.	1%	6%	37%	37%	19%
STATE20 (n=251)	Local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes.	0%	9%	42%	33%	17%
STATE21 (n=252)	Firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect my home.	0%	2%	8%	38%	52%
STATE22 (n=249)	Wildfires threaten my community water supply.	4%	14%	41%	32%	9%
STATE24 (n=254)	I plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires.	0%	0%	2%	18%	80%
STATE25 (n=253)	Development in fire-prone areas of Teton County increases the wildfire risk to my Teton County property	7%	23%	34%	27%	9%

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5.2. If there is a wildfire on your Teton County property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Slightly likely	Not at all likely	Not applicable
LACT1 (n=256)	I would put the fire out.	7%	10%	16%	35%	32%	0%
LACT2 (n=255)	The fire department would save my home.	5%	23%	43%	23%	5%	0%
LACT3 (n=256)	My home would have smoke damage.	9%	41%	36%	12%	2%	0%
LACT4 (n=256)	My home would have some physical damage.	8%	34%	41%	15%	2%	0%
LACT5 (n=255)	My home would be destroyed.	3%	18%	34%	35%	11%	0%
LACT6 (n=254)	I would lose money due to the loss of business or income on my property.	7%	13%	10%	11%	25%	33%
LACT7 (n=257)	My trees and landscape would burn.	21%	38%	28%	12%	1%	0%
LACT9 (n=250)	My neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed.	7%	26%	37%	25%	4%	1%
LACT12 (n=255)	Direct flame would ignite my home.	7%	25%	26%	32%	10%	0%
LACT13 (n=256)	Embers would ignite my home.	7%	25%	33%	25%	9%	0%
LACT14 (n=256)	Nearby homes would ignite my home.	3%	9%	19%	28%	38%	4%

CHANCES1 (n=254)

5.3. What do you think is the chance that a wildfire will be on your Teton County property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure										No chance
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	18%	4%	13%	17%	40%	4%

CHANCES2 (n=253)

5.4. If there is a wildfire on your property **in the next 12 months**, what do you think is the chance that it will destroy or severely damage your Teton County home? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure										No chance
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
2%	2%	10%	10%	5%	24%	5%	13%	11%	17%	0%

Section 6: In this section, we ask where you get information about wildfire, how useful the information is, how you receive information, and how you would like to receive information.

6.1. The following sources provide information about wildfire risk. If you have received information from one of these sources, how useful has it been? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Usefulness of information among respondents who received information from the source (sums to ~100%)					Calculated portion who have received information	Fill in this circle if you have **NOT** received information from this source
		Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful		
SOURCEUSE1 (n=248)	Local fire department	18%	49%	23%	10%	1%	55%	45%
SOURCEUSE2 (n=251)	Community group (ex. homeowners association)	10%	32%	37%	15%	5%	46%	54%
SOURCEUSE25 (n=251)	Community wildfire ambassador	21%	42%	22%	11%	4%	30%	70%
SOURCEUSE28 (n=251)	Local arborist/contractor	12%	35%	31%	15%	7%	34%	66%
SOURCEUSE29 (n=247)	Local government	4%	29%	31%	24%	12%	37%	63%
SOURCEUSE5 (n=248)	Firewise USA®	8%	33%	27%	22%	10%	20%	80%
SOURCEUSE30 (n=248)	Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition	22%	38%	25%	14%	0%	25%	75%
SOURCEUSE31 (n=249)	Teton Conservation District	33%	33%	22%	9%	2%	40%	60%
SOURCEUSE24 (n=248)	Ready, Set, Go! program	15%	27%	29%	22%	7%	24%	76%
SOURCEUSE32 (n=248)	Teton County Emergency Management	12%	42%	30%	13%	3%	37%	63%
SOURCEUSE33 (n=249)	Wyoming State Forestry	11%	32%	18%	14%	25%	11%	89%
SOURCEUSE14 (n=249)	USDA Forest Service (Bridger-Teton National Forest)	16%	37%	23%	18%	6%	35%	65%
SOURCEUSE34 (n=248)	National Park Service	6%	39%	28%	17%	11%	15%	85%
SOURCEUSE15 (n=250)	Bureau of Land Management	0%	27%	27%	27%	18%	9%	91%
SOURCEUSE4 (n=248)	Media	3%	11%	37%	37%	13%	42%	58%

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6.2. How do you currently receive information about wildfire risk reduction and how would you prefer to receive information? Please answer **both** questions for each row.
(*Fill in two circles per row, one for each question*)

		I receive information about how to reduce wildfire risk on my property by...			I prefer to receive information about how to reduce wildfire risk by...	
		No	Yes		No	Yes
Email/e-newsletter	RECEIVEINFO1 (n=250)	67%	33%	WANTINFO1 (n=237)	24%	76%
Mailed newsletter	RECEIVEINFO2 (n=247)	68%	32%	WANTINFO2 (n=236)	39%	61%
Community meetings	RECEIVEINFO3 (n=246)	66%	34%	WANTINFO3 (n=230)	47%	53%
In-person interactions	RECEIVEINFO4 (n=249)	49%	51%	WANTINFO4 (n=234)	27%	73%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor)	RECEIVEINFO5 (n=245)	90%	10%	WANTINFO5 (n=235)	80%	20%
Internet (non-social media)	RECEIVEINFO6 (n=241)	68%	32%	WANTINFO6 (n=235)	50%	50%
TV news	RECEIVEINFO7 (n=246)	80%	20%	WANTINFO7 (n=235)	71%	29%
Newspaper	RECEIVEINFO8 (n=248)	53%	47%	WANTINFO8 (n=236)	39%	61%
Radio	RECEIVEINFO9 (n=247)	75%	25%	WANTINFO9 (n=235)	67%	33%

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Section 7: In this section, we would like to know why you do or do not take action to reduce the risk of wildfire to your Teton County property.

7.1. Do any of the following **prevent you** from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Teton County property (ex. cutting trees, changing roof/siding?)
(*Fill in all circles that apply for each row*)

	FACTOR1 (n=255)	FACTOR2 (n=255)	FACTOR3_a (n=255)	FACTORNO1 (n=255)
Personal resources	Financial cost 33%	Time to do the work 31%	Physical ability to do the work 25%	None of these 48%
	FACTOR11 (n=255)	FACTOR4 (n=255)	FACTOR12 (n=255)	FACTORNO2 (n=255)
Lack of specific information about...	The factors contributing to my property's wildfire risk 18%	How to reduce wildfire risk on my property 24%	Where to dispose of vegetation/slash 15%	None of these 62%
	FACTOR6 (n=253)	FACTOR5_a (n=253)	FACTOR13 (n=253)	FACTORNO3 (n=253)
Personal perspectives	I do not want to change the way my property looks 17%	I do not think taking action would reduce my property's wildfire risk 10%	It's a low priority to me 9%	None of these 68%
	FACTOR14 (n=252)	FACTOR9_a (n=252)	FACTOR15 (n=252)	FACTORNO4 (n=252)
Community	Lack of options for disposing vegetation/slash 17%	Restrictions on the changes I can make to my property 5%	Social pressure from neighbors 1%	None of these 80%

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7.2. Would any of the following encourage you to take action to reduce the wildfire risk on you Teton County property? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

	INCENTV1 (n=252)	INCENTV3 (n=252)	INCENTV4 (n=252)	INCENTVNO1 (n=252)
Resources	Cost-share or financial assistance 53%	Help doing the work 48%	Recommended contractors 29%	None of these 26%
	INCENTV6 (n=251)	INCENTV7 (n=251)	INCENTV8 (n=251)	INCENTVNO2 (n=251)
Information	A report describing my property's wildfire risk factors 61%	Videos showing how to reduce risk on a property in my area 23%	One-on-one visit with wildfire risk experts on my property 57%	None of these 22%
	INCENTV9 (n=249)	INCENTV10 (n=249)	INCENTV11 (n=249)	INCENTVNO3 (n=249)
Other	Feedback on the work I've done to reduce my property's risk 39%	Recognition for taking action 9%	Neighborhood group that organizes wildfire risk-reduction activities 34%	None of these 39%

Section 8: In this section, we ask about personal and household characteristics. Your name will never be connected to your answers in any way.

RISKTAKE1 (n=254)

8.1. In general, do you view yourself as someone who is not at all willing to take risks or very willing to take risks? (*Fill in one circle*)

Very willing to take risks										Not at all willing to take risks
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
2%	4%	13%	18%	13%	25%	8%	9%	6%	2%	1%

AGE (n=254)

8.2. What is your age? (*Fill in the blank*)

MEAN AGE: 62 years old

GENDER (n=250)

8.3. Are you? (*Fill in one circle*)

63% Male

37% Female

EDUC (n=253)

8.4. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? (*Fill in one circle*)

0% Less than high school

2% High school graduate

10% Some college or technical school

3% Technical or trade school

31% College graduate

13% Some graduate work

40% Advanced degree (M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

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EMPLOY (n=252)

8.5. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? (*Fill in one circle*)

45%	Employed full time (including self-employed)
12%	Employed part time (including self-employed)
3%	Unemployed or do not work outside of the home
40%	Retired

INCOME (n=233)

8.6. Which of the following categories describes your annual household income? (*Fill in one circle*)

0%	Less than $15,000
0%	$15,000 - $24,999
1%	$25,000 – $34,999
5%	$35,000 - $49,999
12%	$50,000 - $74,999
12%	$75,000 - $99,999
15%	$100,000 - $149,999
14%	$150,000 - $199,999
41%	$200,000 or more

Thank you for your help. Please use the space below to write any additional comments. If you would like to schedule an onsite visit with a wildfire professional to learn how you can reduce risk on your property, contact Robb Sgroi at robb@tetonconservation.org or 307-733-2110.

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APPENDIX E: Infographic-style Outreach Pamphlet

In 2021, we sent you a survey on wildfire risk.

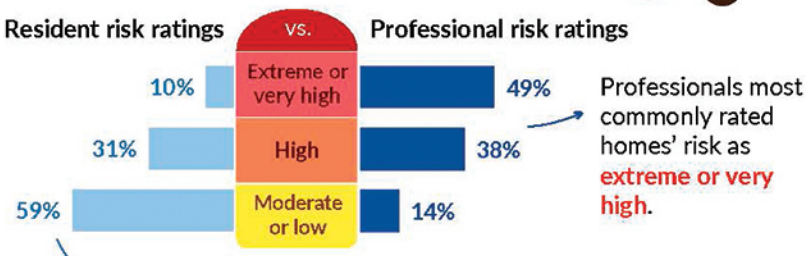
Who responded?
Over **285** households! The response rate was **38%**, which is very high for this type of survey.

Who are we?
The Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) supports wildland fire mitigation programs and many other services in the Teton County area. We collaborated with the Wildfire Research Center to analyze this data.

We also sent professionals to assess your wildfire risk.

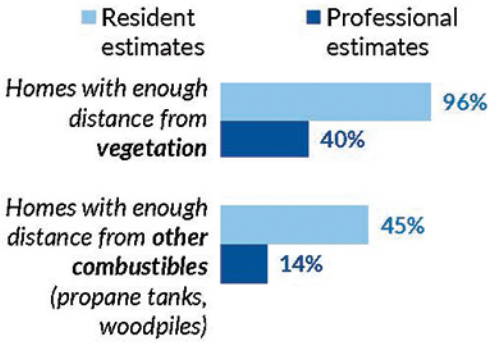
Your home's wildfire risk may be higher than you think.

Our data suggest that **residents view wildfire risk differently** than wildfire professionals.



Is your defensible space big enough? Take another look at the vegetation and other combustibles within 30 feet of your home.

Many survey respondents overestimated their defensible space.



To maintain defensible space, within 30 ft of the main walls of the home, you should **remove**:

- ❑ Weeds/grasses >4 inches
- ❑ Leaves, dead limbs, twigs
- ❑ Tree branches (live & dead) overhanging the home
- ❑ Tree limbs such that the lowest limbs are 6-8ft from the ground and there is 18ft between treetop branches
- ❑ Firewood

Questions? Please contact us!
307-732-8588
Bobbi Clauson, Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist

How safe is your home?

Do you have a reflective address sign with lettering in contrasting colors? Only 7% of residents do, according to the professional assessment. We recommend installing one of these signs because they help firefighters find your house in dark, smoky conditions.

When was your home built?

1986 is the average year a home was built in this community.

If your home was built around then, it may not meet modern standards for fire-resistant building materials and construction.

How can your home's construction help protect it against wildfire?

There are many ways for you to harden your home against wildfire. Key components include fire-resistant roofing and siding materials, roof irrigation systems, and doublepane glass windows.

View this guide for a list of ways you can prepare your home for wildfire.

Have you talked to your neighbors about wildfire mitigation yet?

Folks who talk to their neighbors about wildfire are more likely to take mitigation action, according to the survey. That means your voice matters!

Your risk is connected to your neighbor's—if their house catches on fire, it's more likely yours will. Work with your neighbors to reduce risk!

Address sign photo courtesy of SafetySign.com; Graphic from PowerPoint Icons.

Are you ready to evacuate?

Here are some answers to your top questions about evacuation reported on the survey:

What are the safe evacuation routes?

There are no guaranteed evacuation routes during a wildfire, and 95% of households surveyed have only one safe road out due to vegetation in road corridors. Try to leave as soon as possible to avoid road closures.

How I will be notified about evacuation?

Nixle will notify you. Sign up at this link today and help us spread the word—only 40% of survey respondents have signed up!

What to bring and what to leave?

Visit this website for tips on planning, emergency supplies, what to bring, and family communication

Interested in a Wildfire Risk Overview for your home?

No cost Wildfire Risk Overviews are available through the Teton Conservation District (TCD) for residential properties to identify improvements to structures and vegetation. Up to 50% of the cost of vegetation management can be reimbursed through the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. More info here & via QR code.

On right: Robb Sgroi (TCD), who provides residential assessments, points to char at the base of a lodgepole pine.

Photo by Willie Watsabaugh, taken in Hoback Ranches, Bondurant, WY

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