

# A CALL FOR MORE FOCUS ON RURAL RESILIENCE PLANNING

Poster Showcase

#iaem22

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Non-competitive Category

We used several frameworks, including FEMA's RAPT, to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and potential positive deviants that influence social resilience in the rural communities of Houlton, ME and Chelan, WA.

## AREA CHARACTERISTICS

### HOULTON/ AROOSTOOK, ME

### CHELAN/ DOUGLAS, WA

- Northernmost county in contiguous US
- Aroostook population 67,000
- Agriculture – primarily potatoes and broccoli
- Primary hazards are snow and associated spring flooding
- Averages 94.4" (7.86 ft) of snow
- Strong Tribal presence

- Eastern side of Cascades
- Chelan population 76,000
- 26% speak Spanish at home
- "Apple Capital" of the US
- Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers and poor housing
- Well connected to neighboring tourist towns and Seattle

## RESULTS/FINDINGS

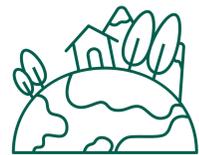
### HOULTON/ AROOSTOOK, ME

### CHELAN/ DOUGLAS, WA

- More isolated
- Older population
- Fairly homogenous
- "Maine" hardiness
- Lack of housing

- Closer to urban areas
- More diverse economy
- 26% "Spanish at home" households
- Current Housing Crisis

## CAPACITIES AND VULNERABILITIES ASSESSMENT



Physical/Material



Social/Organizational



Motivational/Attitudinal

\*RAPT categories in grey were areas of study

## FEMA'S RAPT

Population Based Indicators	Community Based Indicators
Educational Attainment (lack of HS diploma)	Connection to Civic and Social Organizations
Unemployment Rate	Hospital Capacity
Disability	Medical Professional Capacity
English Language Proficiency	Affiliation with a Religion
Home Ownership	Presence of Mobile Homes
Mobility (lack of vehicle)	Public School Capacity
Age	Population Change
Household Income	Hotel/Motel Capacity
Income Inequality	Rental Property Capacity
Health Insurance	
Single-Parent Households	

## CONCLUSIONS

- Aroostook and Chelan counties are in the national mid-range of social resilience
- Rural areas and geographic disbursement of individuals indicates that planning needs to be more robust
- Geographic distances may make some resilience efforts not cost-effective

**RESEARCH GAP!**

Not a lot of "micro" level research on rural social resilience