Community Profile #2: Remote Town

Directions: Take 10 minutes to read through this information and consider the map.

Health and Social

There are 2,830 people residing in the remote town with 196 people per square mile. The demographic makeup of the remote town is 72% White, 3% Black or African American, 17% Native American, 2% Asian, <1% Pacific Islander, <1% from other races; and 6% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino persons of any race comprise 2% of the population. The population age mix includes: 22% under the age of 18, 9% from 18 to 24, 36% from 25 to 44, 26% from 45 to 64, and 8% who are 65 years of age or older. 11% of the population has an annual income below the poverty line, including 13% of those under the age of 18 and 8% of those 65 and older. 142, or 5%, of the population do not speak English well. Of those who do not speak English well, 27% speak a Native American language, 21% speak Spanish, and 41% speak an Asian language.

Many of the residents are self-reliant, for example, living from resources they produce and hunting and fishing. Some residents have developed workshops and lessons in self-reliance that they provide to visiting tourists. Other residents are retirees or seasonal residents.

The community is tight knit with active volunteers and community organizations.

Cultural Resources

The town has long played a key role in the state's history as a heavily used entry point for new settlers and historic pioneers. The town also played an important role in World War II. This history is captured in the many historic structures in downtown.

Natural Resources

The remote town is surrounded by national park land, which is used for hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and boating. Area attractions include a glacier; a sea life center; marine life including whales, sea lions, and sea otters; and wildlife including the bald eagle and grizzly bears.

Infrastructure

The port for this town is an important deep water port for the state's rail and highway system. The remote town includes a railroad terminus, which includes a shipping terminal for coal. The railroad and energy services company in town employs many residents. There is also a minor military installation, a U.S. Coast Guard facility, located right outside of the town. There is an airport used by sightseeing operators in smaller airplanes. Access in and out of town is limited to a single highway and railway bridge to the north. Steep slopes to the west prevent access overland.

Economic

The remote town is the seventh most lucrative fisheries port in the U.S., with more than $50 million worth of fish and shellfish passing through the town annually. Tourism is a big industry for the town, and there are several events each summer, such as a sport fishing tournament and marathon to help bring tourists into the town. Tourists visit the remote village during the summer, and docks have been built for large cruise ships. There are two nursing homes within the city. A large state prison is on the outskirts of town to the east.

Housing

The housing supply in the area is limited by the steep slopes to the east and west. A core of historic housing is in the downtown area, and new single family residences are being built along the river heading north out of town. These new homes are potentially vulnerable to flash flooding and wildfire, but are new enough that residents do not know what to expect. Housing costs are high in the area, but wages in the area have also been high, keeping housing affordable for the current job market.

Hazard and Planning Context

The remote town has experienced earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis in the past. In 1964, a tsunami struck the remote town killing 11 people and destroying the seaport and railroad lines.

Directions: Take 15 minutes to discuss the assets in the community (social, economic, and environmental) that are exposed to the hazard and how sensitive they are to the hazard. First, roll the die to learn what hazard you are facing. Look up the hazard from the table below:

1 = Chronic Flooding	4 = Landslide & Debris Flow
2 = Earthquake	5 = Tsunami
3 = Flooding	6 = Winter Storm

Community Systems at Risk

Health and Social (people, sensitive individuals, social organizations, places, and public services)	
Cultural Resources (important sites, communities, or places)	
Natural Resources (reefs, wetlands, species, parks, hazardous materials)	
Infrastructure (critical facilities, utilities, or systems that support the community)	
Economic (businesses and employers, services, data systems, major industries)	
Housing (areas of important housing supply such as for vulnerable populations)	

Directions: Now consider potential impacts from the hazard to one of these assets. Select an asset of interest to your organization. In considering impacts, consider your group's review of the hazard and the community's vulnerability. Also, consider the community's strengths – or ability to cope. Take 5 minutes to complete this section.

Asset:
Impact:

What other information would be helpful to help evaluate the risk for this asset?

_____

_____

_____

Directions: Finally, discuss the impacts with your group and decide on the vulnerability posed by this hazard to the asset – high, medium, or low. Write down your finding and some justification. Think about the asset and potential impacts. Take five minutes to complete this section. Are there any actions the community could take to reduce its vulnerability and risk? What actions could the community take to plan, protect, and adapt to this hazard and increase resilience? Take 10 minutes to complete this section.

Vulnerability Level (High, Medium, or Low): _____

Why? _____

_____

Potential actions to increase the community's ability to cope (write these on a flip chart):

_____

_____

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