# Climate Concerns and Priorities by Geographic Area

***A Summary of Responses to Registration Questions for “A Western Lake Superior Climate Resilience Forum”***

As part of the registration process, the planning team asked forum attendees two questions:

* What are your top concerns about the changing climate as it pertains to your job?
* What do you see as the top priorities for climate resilience in your community?

The tables below summarizes the responses the planning team received. Forty-one local and Tribal officials and staff answered the questions.

## North Shore of Minnesota

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cook County, including City of Grand Marais (5) | * Water levels and quality * Species loss * Decreasing biodiversity * Increased cost of damages from climatic event * Public health and safety * Adaptation and mitigation | * Increase stormwater infrastructure and water treatment capacities * Extreme weather * Flood * Drought * Wildfires * Creating sustainable systems * Funding for small cities and counties * Climate affecting Lake Superior, our wilderness and individual contributions |
| Lake County, including City of Beaver Bay and Town of Silver Creek (5) | * Increasing severity of weather * Changing precipitation rates * Culvert sizing * Erosion from flooding and storm events * Coastal erosion * Severe weather conditions | * Preparedness * Water quality and quantity * Increased fuel reduction to reduce wildfires * Predictable weather |
| St. Louis County (6) | * Mitigation of tree species and forest ecosystems * Difficulty enacting changes needed to draw down transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions due to rural nature of the area * Attitudes * Forest harvest operability * How to adapt * Facility design for sustainability, resilience and energy efficiency | * Water quality * Trees * Water protection * Renewable energy * Moving homes and other structures out of flood risk areas * Diversifying of ecosystems * Invasive species management * Preparedness * County operations, including what measures we need to assure they are uninterrupted |
| City of Duluth (6) | * Stormwater management * Extreme storm events * Adaptation of native plant communities * Infrastructure needs * Mitigating community emissions * Lack of funding to implement projects intended to increase sustainability * Getting the support/ funding needed to implement change; demonstrating that upfront costs will be much less than cost of inaction * Impacts to infrastructure and development | * Upgrading older housing stock * Resilient housing and infrastructure, especially in low income neighborhoods * Environmental justice challenges * Thermal energy transition * Failing and/or severely dilapidated infrastructures that are not ready for the effects of a changing climate * Wetland inventory and stormwater plan that identifies and prioritizes green infrastructure projects * Need for alternate energy * Public welfare and safety |

## St. Louis River Corridor in Minnesota

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Carlton County, including the City of Cloquet (3) | * Extreme rain events * Drought and mitigating their impacts * Impacts on future generations * Impacts on county business operations * Planning for changing infrastructure | * Finding nature based solutions to mitigate impacts * Alternative energy * Efficient use of resources * Stormwater infrastructure |
| Fond du Lac Reservation (2) | * Educating the public about the changes expected * The future of clean water, clean air and local clean food | * Lifestyle changes in regard to energy use * Readiness for climate change |

## South Shore of Wisconsin

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Iron County (1) | * Invasive species * Ecosystem changes | * Maintaining native ecosystems * Forest management |
| Ashland County, including the City of Ashland (3) | * Increased shoreline erosion from increased storm action * Implications of climate change for food security * Food sovereignty * Water quality * Culvert resilience | * Development of local and regional food production, storage and distribution networks and infrastructures * Flood resilience * Green infrastructure implementation |
| Red Cliff Reservation (5) | * Disaster debris management * Increase waste disposal * Severe storms * Animal/phenology shifts with regard to cultural practices * Reducing greenhouse gas emissions * Effects of climate change on wetlands * Effects of changing wetland functions * Increased precipitation events * Flooding * Erosion * Stormwater/ infrastructure updates * Water quality | * Water quality |
| Bayfield County, including Towns of Bayfield and Lincoln (3) | * Sustainable municipal practices * Fossil fuel usage in municipal vehicles * More people moving into our area putting stress on infrastructure * Impact of climate change on Lake Superior * Impact on orchards * Preparing for and recovering from storm events damaging infrastructure | * Municipal level planning * Transportation infrastructure, including culverts, roads and bridges |
| City of Superior and Town of Summit (2)  (Douglas County) | * Water/ rainfall events * Intense storm events * Overwhelmed stormwater infrastructure and flooding * Erosion | * Green space * Flood control * Erosion control |