

# **Policy Learning and Political Context: Analyzing Responses to Colorado's Extreme Flood Events of 2013**

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## **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1) Can you please provide your full name, professional title, and agency that you work for?

### **BEGIN RECORDING HERE**

- 2) What is your job at the agency/community/organization?

### **EFFECTS OF FLOOD ON COMMUNITY & FUTURE FLOOD RISK**

- 3) Can you describe how \_\_\_\_\_ (name of community) was affected by the 2013 floods?
  - a. Was specific infrastructure damaged or destroyed?
  - b. Did the damage primarily occur in the defined floodplain or were other areas affected/hit harder?
  - c. Do you have current calculations for the extent of the damage?
- 4) Now that you have had 3 years to reflect, how would you describe the cause of the flood?
- 5) How would you describe the flood risk in this area, currently and in the future?
  - a. How is flood risk calculated?
  - b. Do you think pre-flood risk assessments were accurate based on actual flood damage?
  - c. Have you changed your models for calculating risk since the flood?
  - d. How would you describe the average citizen in terms of their belief about the causes of the flood or the likelihood that it will happen again?

### **RECOVERY: PLANS, PROJECTS, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- 6) Has the community's policies or plans for future floods or other risks changed since the flood? What did that process look like?
  - a. What sort of information or input goes into these policies/plans/processes? What is the most important information?
  - b. Where does this information come from?
  - c. Are certain groups contacted to participate in the drafting of the new/modified plan?
- 7) Beyond these changes in plans and policy, what recovery projects have taken place since 2013?
  - a. How were priorities decided?
  - b. Are you rebuilding, or redesigning?
- 8) What was the final picture in terms of assistance from agencies like FEMA, HUD, etc.?
  - a. Do you think that disaster assistance from other agencies (FEMA, Colorado) makes a difference in how \_\_\_\_\_ (name of community) is rebuilding?

- 9) Has \_\_\_\_\_ (name of community) been looking at what other cities/counties have been doing as they continue to recover from the flood?
- Are there any communities doing particularly interesting or innovative things to rebuild or redesign?
  - Is any information being purposely shared between communities?
- 10) Have you seen groups or individuals, like homeowners or non-profits, working together to try to convince \_\_\_\_\_ (name of community) to rebuild in certain ways?
- If so, who are these people or groups, and are they still active after 3 years?
  - How have you seen them lobby?
  - Do you think they are working together?
  - What do you think most people believe the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of community) should do or should have done differently to respond or rebuild in the aftermath of the floods?

### **REFLECTIONS ON DRIVERS OF OR BARRIERS TO SUCCESS**

- 11) What have been the most important factors in whether or not recovery in \_\_\_\_\_ has been successful? (if answer does not focus on these, prompt the interview subject about the following)
- Relationships (with agencies, residents, NGOs, other communities, etc.)
  - Resources (financial, personnel, technical, etc.)
  - Sources of information (science, informal networks with other communities, etc.)
- 12) Did (community) experience any major roadblocks or barriers to recovery?
- 13) If you could have done anything different during the recovery process, what would that be?

### **OTHER**

- 14) How does your town or city plan for growth or development in high risk areas like the floodplain generally?
- 15) Is there anyone else with whom you've worked that we should speak with about these issues, especially at the state level?
- If we contact him/her, can we use your name?