

## Appendix A

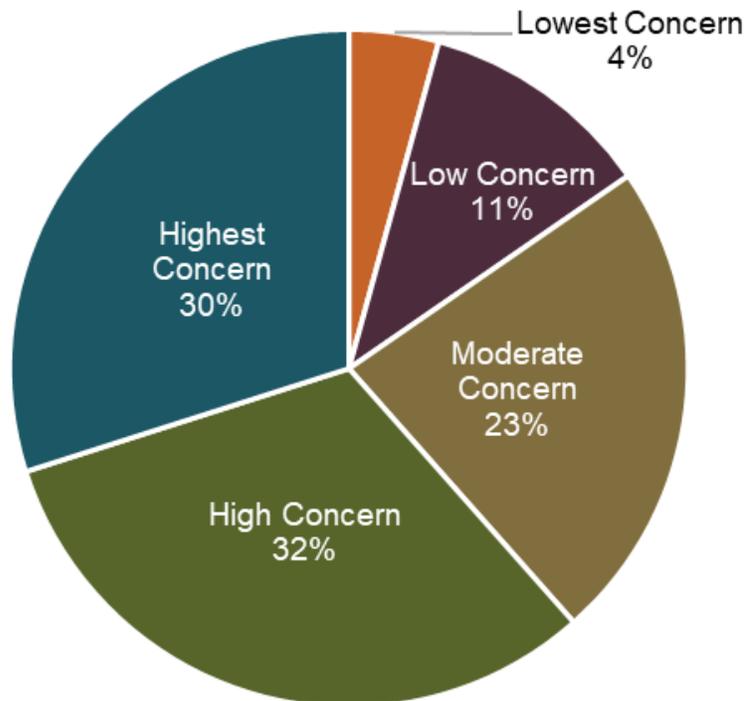
# Public Survey Summary

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The following is a graphical summary of the Gunnison County CWPP Public Survey responses. The survey was conducted from July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The public survey received a total of 119 responses during this time. It was made available online and in physical form during the first CWPP Map Walk events and at the Gunnison County Library and Crested Butte Town Hall. Not all questions were required to be answered, and the response rate varied from 112 responses to 119 responses for each question.

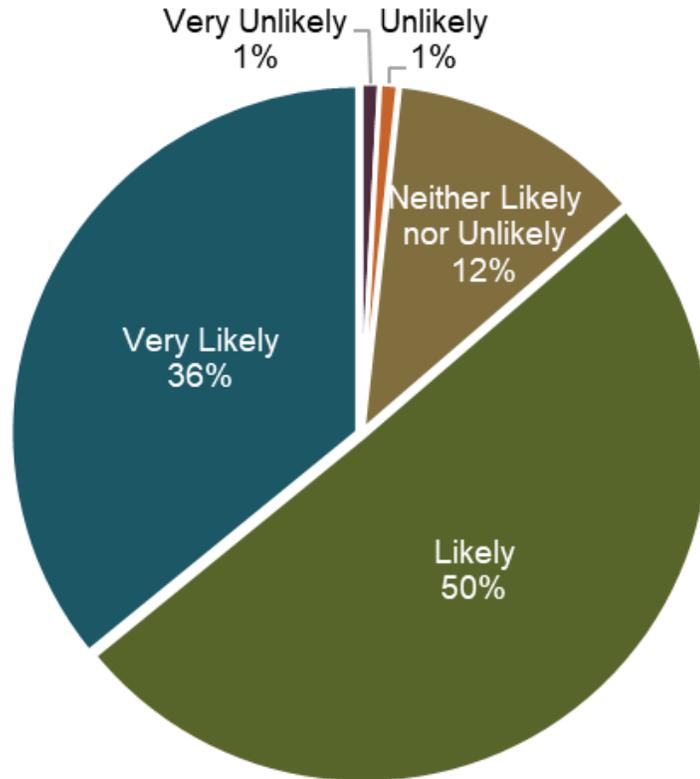
### Rank the level of concern that wildfire will impact you or the values that you care about.

Most respondents ranked wildfires' impact on their values as high or the highest concern. 62% of respondents indicated that they have high or the highest concern that a wildfire would impact their values.



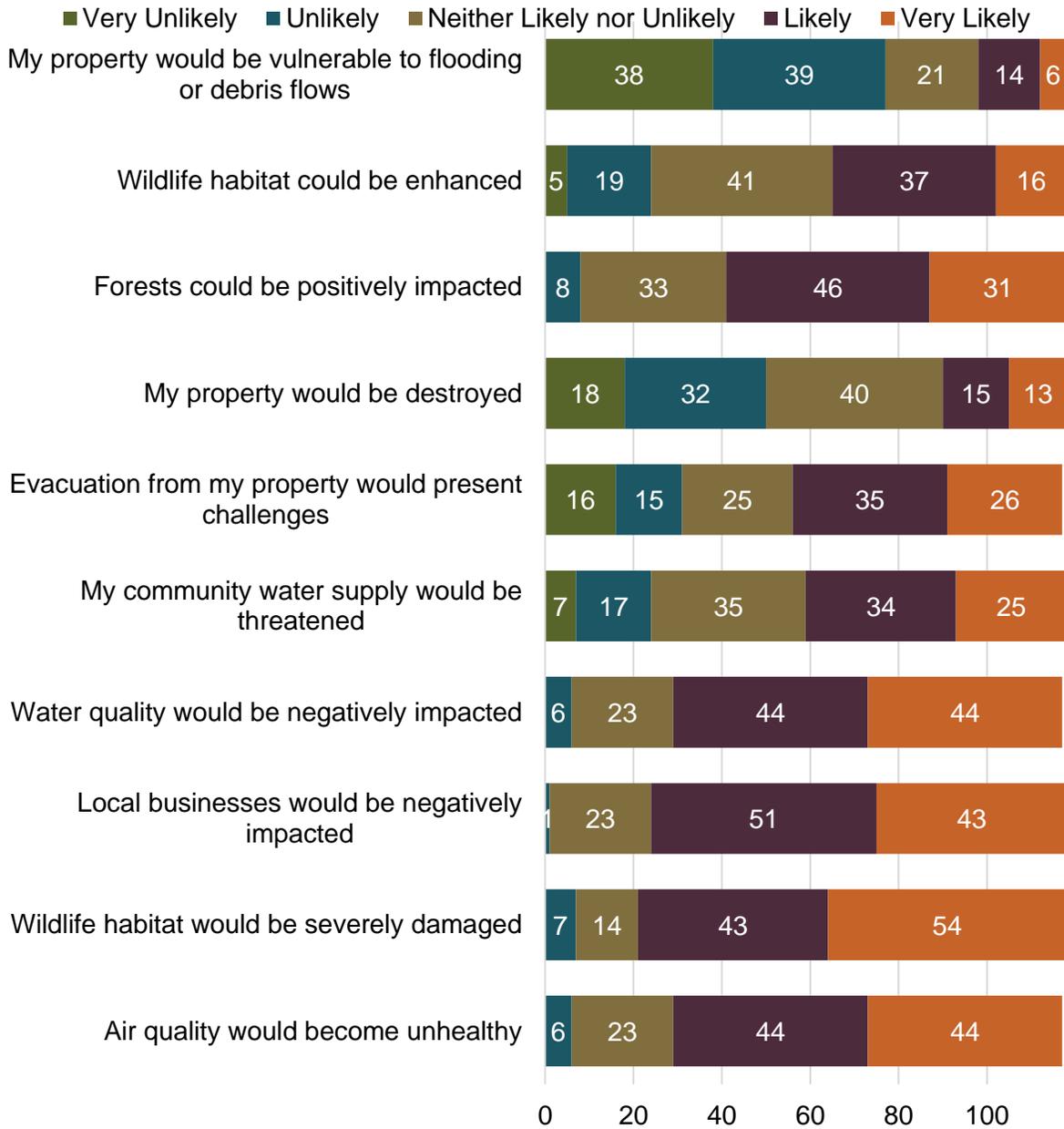
**In your opinion, how likely is it that a major wildfire will occur in Gunnison County in the next 5 years?**

86% of respondents indicated that they thought it was likely or very likely for a major wildfire to occur in Gunnison County in the next 5 years.



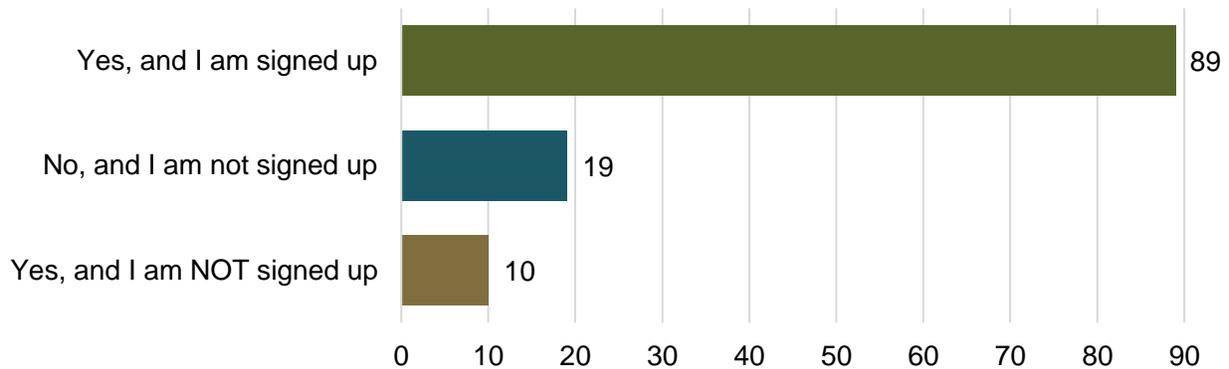
**If a major wildfire were to occur in Gunnison County, how likely would the following be? (Respondents were asked to rank their responses from Very unlikely to Very likely)**

Wildlife habitat damage impacts on local businesses, water quality, and air quality were viewed as the most likely scenarios. Most people identified that their property would be very unlikely or unlikely to be affected by flooding and debris flowing from wildfire or their property being destroyed by a fire.



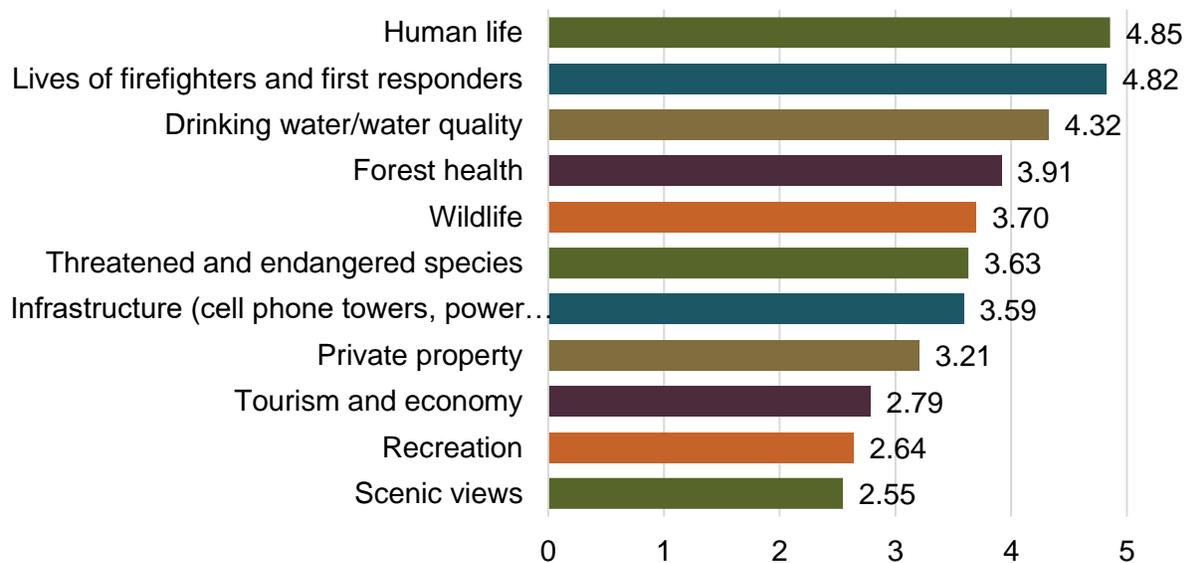
### Are you aware of the emergency notification system (Gunnison Regional Alerts) and are you signed up?

Most respondents (89) indicated they were signed up for Gunnison Regional Alerts. The people who indicated they were unaware and had not signed up were given the web address to sign up for Gunnison Regional Alerts.



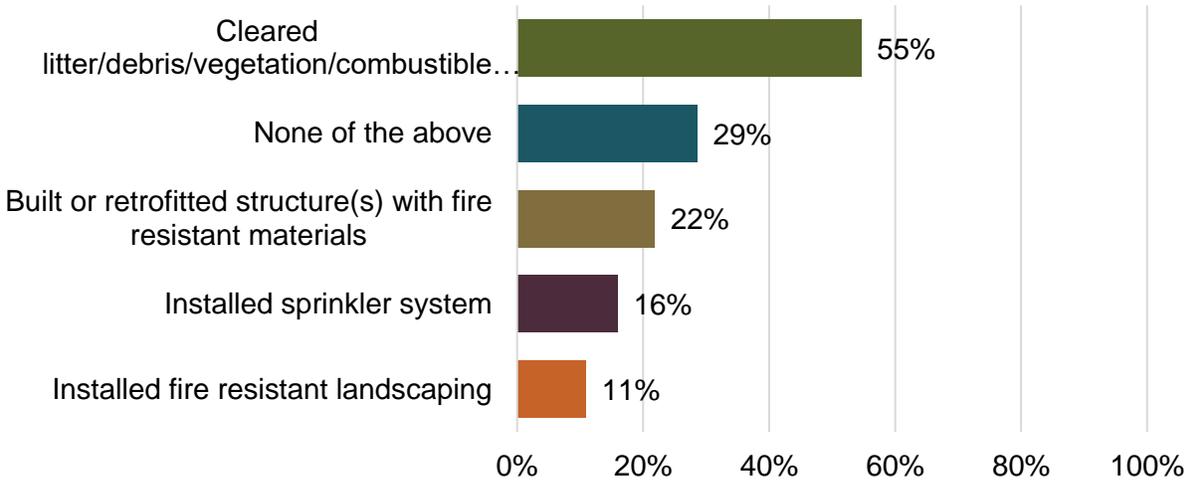
### Please indicate how important it is to protect the following from wildfire and/or post wildfire flood events (Circle 1-5, 1 = least important and 5 = most important)

Human life and the lives of firefighters were ranked as the most important, followed by water quality and forest health. The survey found that tourism and economy, recreation, and scenic views were the least important on this list.



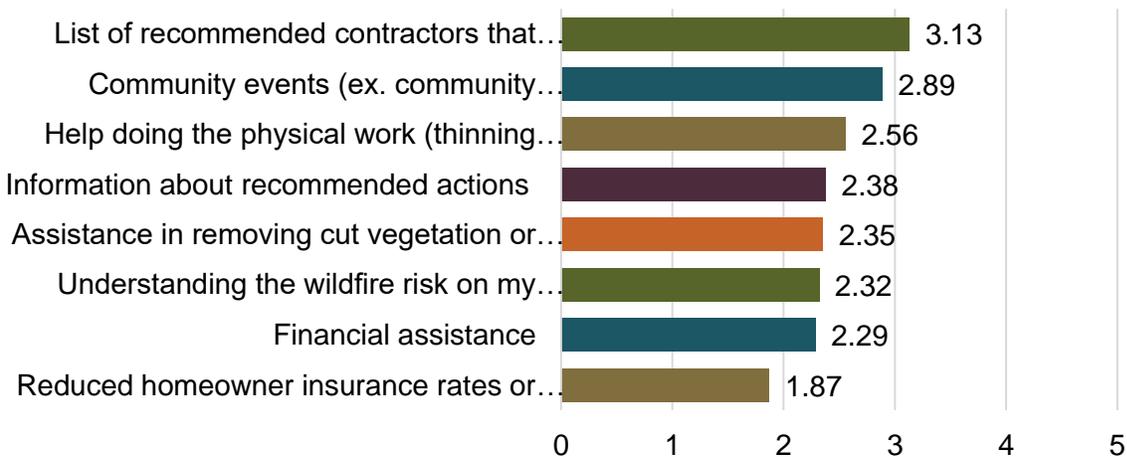
### What measures have you taken to protect your home or property from wildfire? (Select all that apply)

Of the respondents who answered, almost 29% have not taken one of the measures given to protect their home. Respondents who selected "other" said they did many different things to protect their property, such as consulting fire personnel and buying personal fire suppression kits and gear.



### What factors/information would encourage you to reduce wildfire risks on your property? (Circle 1-5, 1=very encouraging, 5= not encouraging at all)<sup>1</sup>

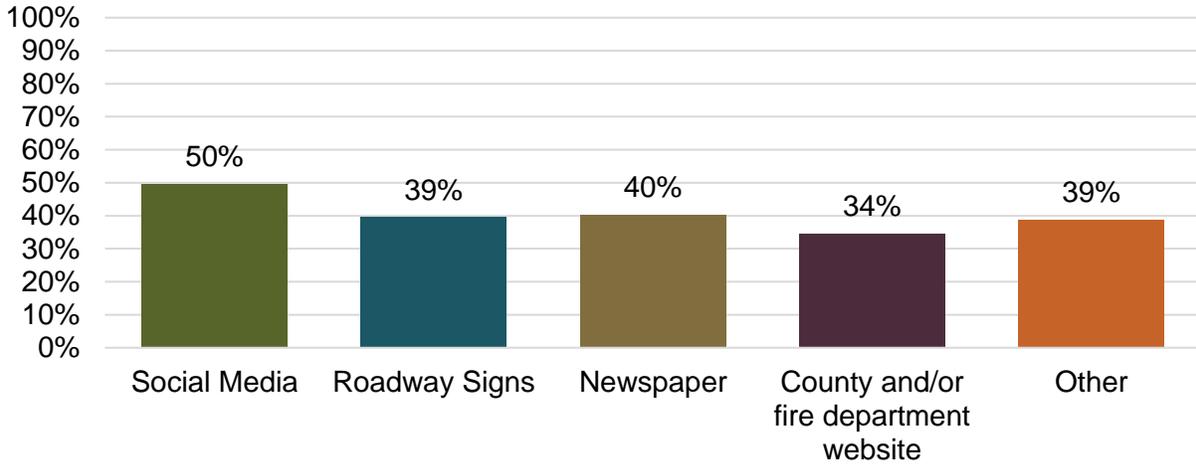
Survey participants indicated that lists of recommended contractors and community events would best encourage them to reduce wildfire risks on their property.



<sup>1</sup> West Region Wildfire Council can provide help with these actions, including a list of recommended contractors. Please visit the website <https://www.cowildfire.org/contact-us> or call at (970) 615-7300.

### Where do you get your wildfire information? (Select all that apply)

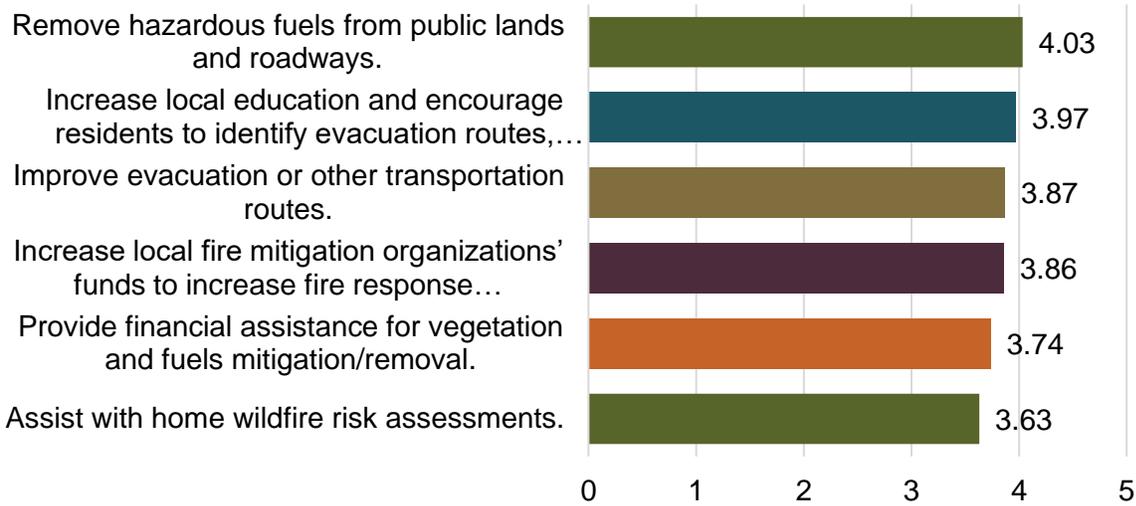
50% of respondents indicated that they receive wildfire information from social media. The fewest number of respondents indicated they receive their information from county and/or fire department websites. Respondents who marked others indicated they received wildfire information from TV news channels, friends, family, neighbors, radio, and the internet.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Wildfire information can be obtained from Gunnison County Emergency Management <https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/852/Wildfire-Information>, West Region Wildfire Council <https://www.facebook.com/WestRegionWildfire>, <https://www.cowildfire.org/>, and the Colorado State Forest Service <https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoStateForestService>, <https://csfs.colostate.edu/>.

**What would you like to see the county and fire authorities do in the future to protect people, resources, and infrastructure from future wildfires? (Circle each option 1-5, 1=not important, 5=very important)**

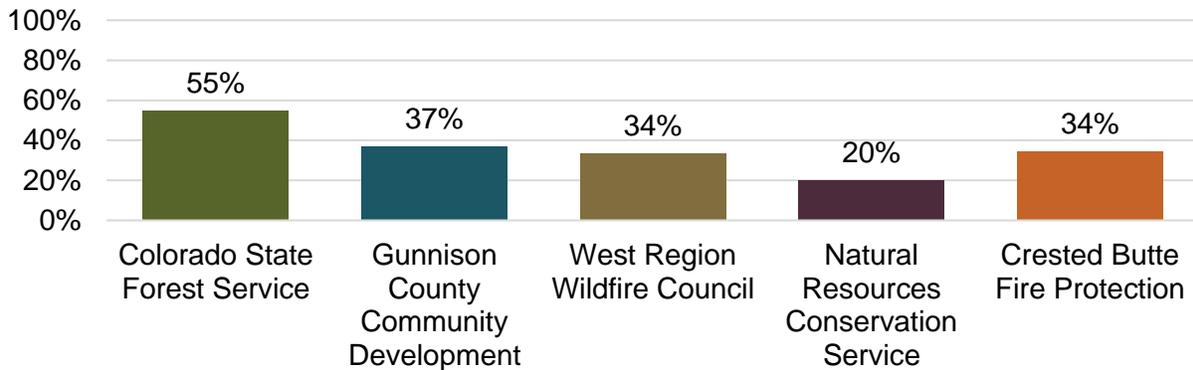
Overall, respondents felt all of them were important, but removing hazardous fuels from public lands and roadways and increasing local education were considered the most important.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> West Region Wildfire Council can provide wildfire risk assessment and financial assistance for people who qualify <https://www.cowildfire.org/take-action>.

### Are you aware of the following existing resources for private property wildfire mitigation? (Select all that you are aware of)

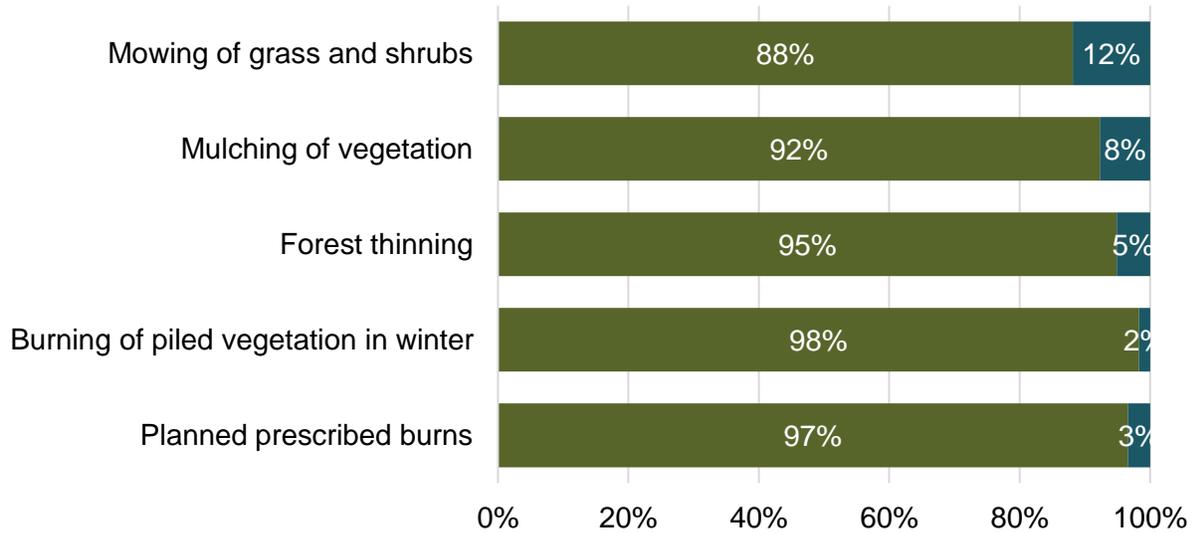
The Colorado State Forest Service was the most recognized resource, with 55% of respondents indicating they were aware of the state forest service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service was the least recognized resource for wildfire mitigation, with only 20% aware of it.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Colorado State Forest Service <https://csfs.colostate.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoStateForestService>, Gunnison County Community Development <https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/144/Community-and-Economic-Development>, <https://www.facebook.com/GunnisonCountyCO>, West Region Wildfire Council <https://www.cowildfire.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/WestRegionWildfire>, Crested Butte Fire Protection District <https://cbfpd.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063681394545>, and Natural Resources Conservation Service <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/colorado>.

## Do you support the following vegetation management techniques? (Yes or No)

Most respondents supported all vegetation management. Mowing grass and shrubs was the least supported, with 88% agreeing with the management technique. Planned and prescribed burns were the most supported, with 97% supporting the technique.



### If you selected "No" to any of the vegetation management techniques in the question above, please explain why.

The following is a comment summary, lightly edited for clarity. Twenty-one people submitted comments for this question. Three people said they did not have enough knowledge to make an informed decision.

#### Mowing of grass and shrubs

Respondents who marked "No" to mowing grass and shrubs indicated that mowing is unnecessary, difficult, and ultimately hurts the environment.

##### Related Comments

- While mowing has potential benefits of fuels reduction, we need to be aware of ecological considerations.
- Mowing is unnecessary and difficult to do.

### Mulching of vegetation

Respondents who marked "No" on mulching of vegetation felt that areas that had been mulched were prone to weed growth and not helping new trees come through. Others also felt mulching is not practical on a large scale.

#### Related Comments

- I have witnessed excessive chipping down trees, and it appears to smother the ground and new trees do not come up, just weeds.
- This type of work should be prioritized and exclusively done in the WUI not in remote areas of public lands.

### Forest thinning

Respondents who marked "No" on forest thinning discussed the lack of effectiveness and the beetles naturally thinning the forest.

#### Related Comments

- Forests thin themselves. Beetles have done an amazing job of killing all the forests south of here.

### Burning of piled vegetation in winter

Respondents who marked "No" on burning piled vegetation in winter are worried about air quality.

#### Related Comments

- I am worried about the effect on air quality.

### Planned prescribed burns

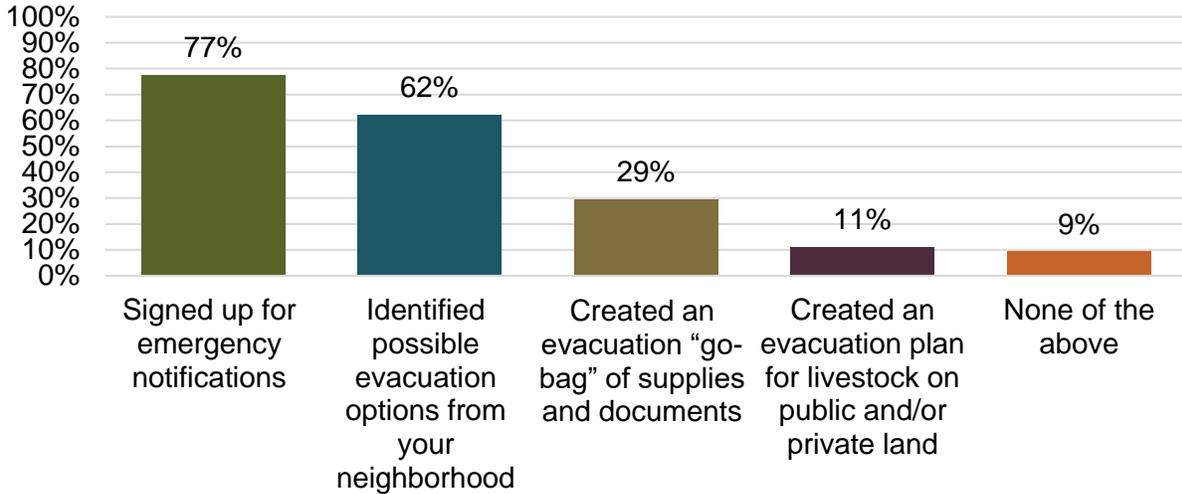
Respondents who marked "No" on planned prescribed burns are worried about air quality and whether the forest is too thick to burn adequately.

#### Related Comments

- Personally, I prefer clearing because of the reduced air quality.
- The forest is too thick to burn adequately.

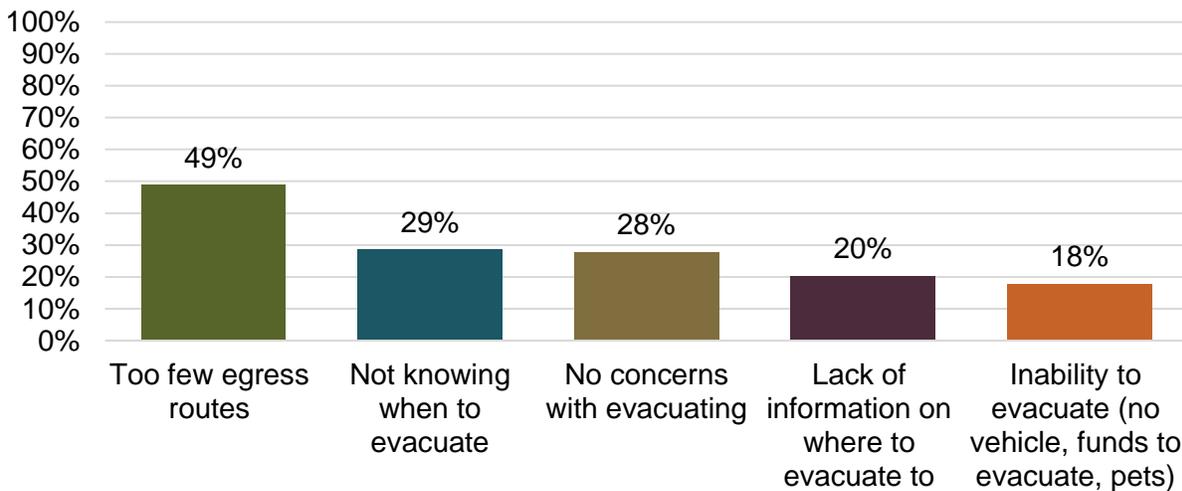
### What actions have you taken to prepare for evacuation? (Select all that apply)

90% of survey participants have taken action to prepare for evacuation. The most common thing people have done is sign up for emergency notifications or identify evacuation routes. One respondent indicated that they would stay and protect their home.



### What would be your biggest concerns if you needed to evacuate? (Select all that apply)

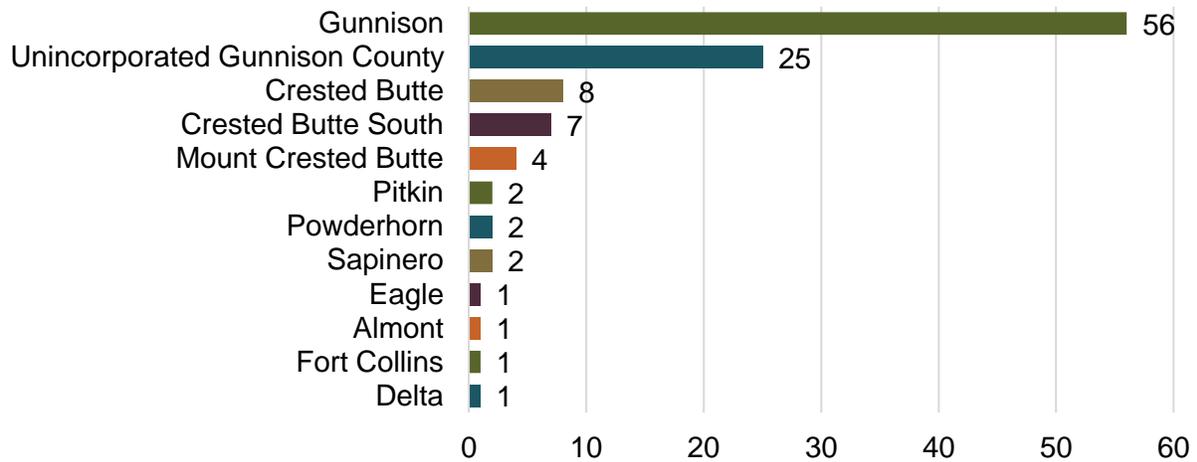
The biggest concern is the number of egress routes; almost 49% of respondents cited this as a concern. The second most cited reason was not knowing when to evacuate, with 29% citing it. The inability to evacuate was cited the fewest number of times. 28% of survey respondents had no concerns about evacuating.



# Demographic Information

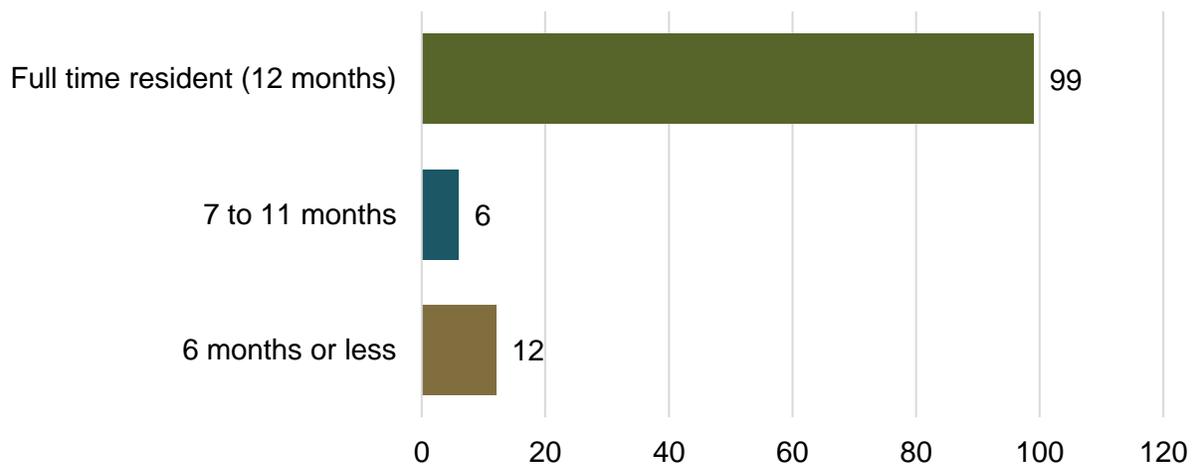
## Where is your primary residence?

56 out of 110 residents who responded to the question identified Gunnison as their primary residence. The second largest number of respondents were from Unincorporated Gunnison County.



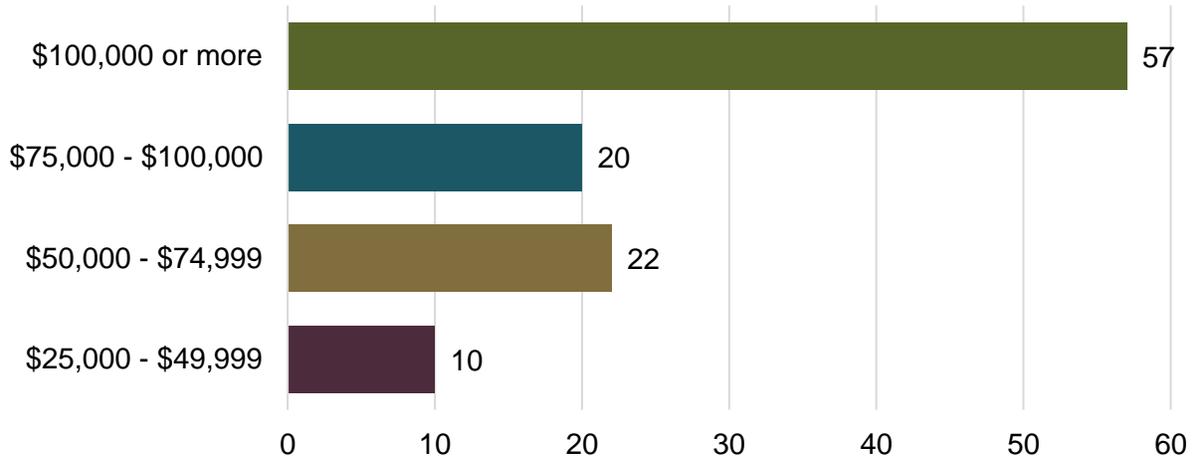
## How many months out of the year do you live at your Gunnison County residence?

Almost 85% of respondents live at their residence full-time. Around 5% live in Gunnison County for 7 to 11 months, and 10% live at their residence for 6 months or less.



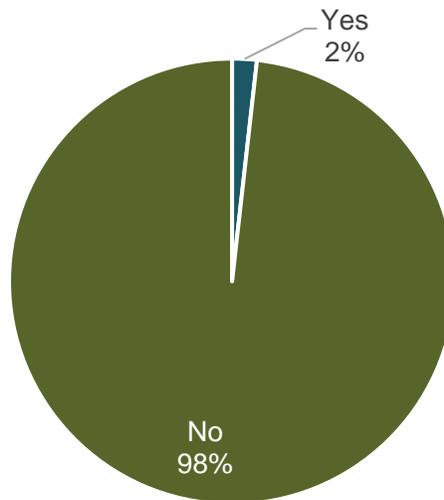
### What is your household income?

52% of households earn over \$100,000 per year. 18% made between \$75,000 and \$100,000, and 20% of households made between \$50,000 and \$74,999. Finally, 9% of households made between \$25,000 and \$49,999.



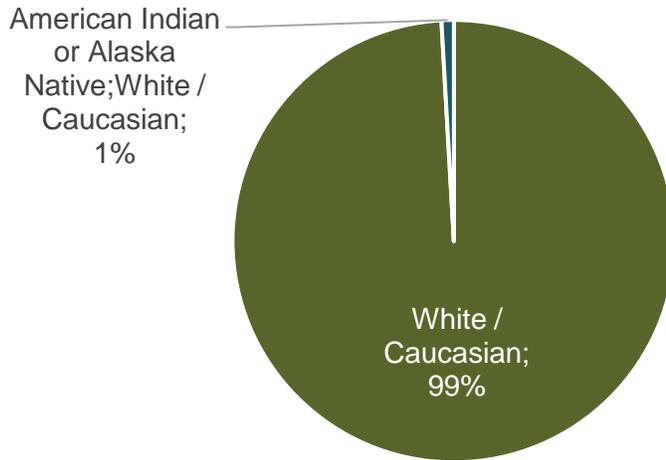
### Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Most respondents were not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.



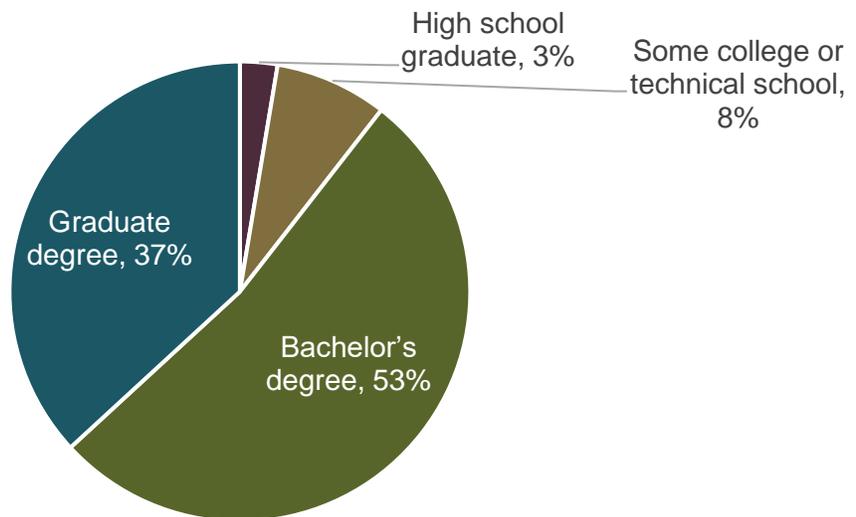
### Please select your race (Select all that apply)

One person identified as American Indian or Alaska Native / Caucasian, and the rest identified as White / Caucasian.



### What is the highest level of school completed?

Almost 90% of respondents hold a bachelor's degree or higher.



### What is your age?

Most respondents were between 45 and 64, followed by 35- to 44-year-olds. 18- to 24-year-olds had the fewest respondents, representing only 3% of people who took the survey.

