

Appendix A: Semi-Guided Interview Protocol

Respondent Name:

Interview Date:

Introduction and verbal consent (administer prior to interview questions)

Thank you so much for scheduling time to talk with me. As you may recall, I am studying policy responses to the 2020 Oregon Wildfires. I would like to ask you some questions about your experience with state-level policy changes. Your participation will take approximately one hour.

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this study, and you will not receive compensation for your participation. With your permission, the interview will be recorded. These recordings will be transcribed for data analysis purposes and then destroyed after completion of the study.

Your participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty. You also have the right to refuse to answer particular questions.

Do you agree to participate in the study?

[IF NO, related to concerns]: I understand your concerns.

[Potential follow-up questions]:

- Could we schedule the interview for another time? Or schedule it for two sessions?
- May I give you a little more information about my background?
- May I tell you a little bit about my interest in this topic?
- I appreciate your time. Please feel free to let me know if you change your mind.

[IF YES]: Great. Before we begin, I'd like to review a few items. Your responses will be used to inform the findings of my study. With your permission, your identity will be made known in written materials resulting from the study. Otherwise, your individual privacy and confidentiality of the information you provide will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study to the extent permitted by law. Finally, your participation is voluntary, so you can refuse to answer selected questions or stop the interview at any time.

May I audiotape our interview, so that I don't miss any of your comments?

[IF YES]: Give me a moment to turn on the recording [TURN ON RECORDING] ok, I'm ready. Do you have any questions for me before we start?

[IF NO]: I understand. I will take notes instead of recording the interview. Do you have any questions for me before we start?

Interview Questions:

1. To start, I'd like to learn a little more about your background and role, especially as it relates to the 2020 Oregon Wildfires, and what impact the event had on you, either personally or professionally?
2. How would you characterize Oregon's approach to wildfire risk and management prior to the wildfires:
 - a. Major issues and active individuals / groups
 - b. Previous experience with similar events
 - c. State response to such events in the past
 - d. Focus on disaster response, natural resource management and/or climate change
3. Please describe how various communities across the state were initially impacted by wildfires (i.e., during and shortly after they occurred).
 - a. Injuries, fatalities, damages
 - b. Smoke/fire exposure and air quality
 - c. Community evacuation
 - d. Shared resources with other communities
 - e. Evacuation for other communities
4. Please tell me about some of the changes that occurred after the wildfires. I'm particularly interested in the types of policy or other system-level changes that occurred in response to the wildfires:
 - a. Warning systems
 - b. Emergency response
 - c. Preparedness for future events
 - d. Perceptions of risks of future events
 - e. Economic development strategies
 - f. Land use decisions
 - g. Resource and forest management decisions
 - h. Exit from community or displacement within the community (forced or voluntary)
 - i. Public safety power shutoff decisions
5. How did the most important changes come about?
 - a. Main stakeholders within and outside the community
 - b. Community and/or state-level leadership

- c. Level of agreement/disagreement
 - d. Resources utilized to achieve change
 - e. Messaging/framing
 - f. Collective action
6. Do you think these changes are directly related to the event or they would have happened eventually anyway?
 7. What other individuals or groups were most supportive of these changes, if any? Opposed?
 8. How has the experience of the wildfires changed conversation about disaster preparation in Oregon, if at all?
 - a. How has the experience of the wildfires changed the state-level conversation about disaster preparation?
 - b. How have state-level stakeholders used the event in messaging to promote changes related to disaster response?
 9. How has the experience of this event changed thoughts / perceptions about climate change for you, if at all? For other state-level stakeholders? For Oregonians more broadly?
 - a. How have state-level agencies or organizations engaged individuals or prompt action regarding environmental issues, particularly climate change, in the wake of the wildfires?
 - b. How have state-level stakeholders used the event in messaging to promote changes related to climate change?
 10. Other?
 - a. Things you thought we would discuss and didn't?
 - b. Sources of information?
 - c. People to interview?
 11. Would you be willing for your identity to be made known in written materials resulting from the study? If yes, we will ask you to review any relevant materials (e.g., quotes) before publication. If not, your individual privacy and confidentiality of the information you provide will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study to the extent permitted by law.
 12. Would you like to have publications from this study shared with you upon completion?

Thank you so much for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional thoughts after we finish our interview.