

Gathering Our Voice

General Interview Guide

Background & Context

How long have you lived in NCW?

What brought or attracted you here? What do you remember most vividly from your journey here?

How have you made a living in this region over the years?

What are you most proud of in terms of your personal, family, or community achievements?

Adapting

What resources or characteristics have contributed to those achievements? What resources have been most important to you in your life here? *Tip: Consider environmental, community and economic resources.*

Can you tell me specifically how these resources helped you? *Tip: Follow up by asking how one change led to another, e.g., how changes in the community created economic challenges or how economic change created environmental challenges.*

Did these resources and your use of them change over time? If so, can you tell me how?

How did you learn to use those resources differently over time? What worked for you?

Learning

How would you define good stewardship of the [local economy], [environment] and [community]?

Where did those stewardship values come from – what are some of your earliest memories?

How has your notion of stewardship changed over time?

Cooperating

Can you tell me about where people gathered in your community as you were growing up?

What brought people together?

What inspired these gatherings? Did they happen at particular places or times?

What kind of activities did people do together? What kind of groups did people create?

Tips: Explore how people managed to gather and cooperate despite differing economic, social and environmental views as well as differences in the types of tasks involved in that cooperation, i.e., roles of men and women.

Appreciating

What do you most appreciate about this place?

When you think about this part of NCW, what images, feelings and thoughts come to your mind?

What helps you feel connected to this place and community? Can you share an example of this connectedness that stands out in your memory?

What conditions or circumstances make that feeling of being connected possible?

Tip: It may be helpful to prompt the interviewee to broaden their view of what they appreciate, e.g., not only community but economy and environment)

Enhancing

What is it about this region that has helped you make a living here?

Have aspects of the community and economy here contributed to your personal and professional achievements?

In what ways do you feel you, your family, or your work have contributed to the community life and spirit of this place? *Tip: To go deeper, follow up by asking more about one of these elements that the interviewee hasn't talked freely about yet.*

Hoping

What do you see in your county or in the whole region that gives you hope that we are moving toward a thriving future? *Tip: You might take this opportunity to remind the interviewee of the full range of what they appreciate and what made it all possible.*