



2022 PSE WILDFIRE PREPARED COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

**SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES OF CLE ELUM, RONALD,
ROSLYN, AND GREENWATER, WA**

Report date | February 2023

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
COMMUNITY MEETING LOCATIONS.....	3
COMMUNITY MEETING ATTENDANCE.....	4
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK	4
WHERE PEOPLE GET INFORMATION ABOUT NATURAL HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES.....	5
HOW PEOPLE PREPARE, WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE, AND HOW MUCH NOTICE OF A PSPS THEY WOULD NEED	6
WHAT SUPPORT DO PEOPLE NEED AND HOW WOULD PEOPLE LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED DURING A POWER OUTAGE	7
SUMMARY OF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS.....	8
COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNING LOGISTICS	8
ADVERTISING THE COMMUNITY MEETINGS	8
INVOLVING PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS	9
NEXT STEPS	10
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	10

FIGURES

Figure 1: Additional resources.....	2
Figure 2: Community meeting locations within the PSE Service Area.....	3
Figure 3: Community meeting attendance	4
Figure 4: Scenario One feedback.....	5
Figure 5: Scenario Two feedback.....	6
Figure 6: Scenario Three feedback.....	7
Figure 7: Number of questions asked at each community meeting.....	8
Figure 8: PSE's wildfire mitigation planning process.	10

INTRODUCTION

Wildfires are a growing public safety concern for much of the Western United States. PSE is taking a comprehensive approach to wildfire preparedness while maintaining the reliable delivery of energy.

PSE's latest [Wildfire Mitigation and Response Plan for 2022](#) outlines the year-round efforts to prepare for and help prevent wildfires in our service area. Many of PSE's wildfire-related actions also help protect our system from other hazards, like high winds and winter storms.

As part of this effort, PSE held wildfire preparedness community meetings with the residents of Cle Elum, Ronald, Roslyn, and Greenwater. At these meetings, PSE described its current activities to mitigate wildfire risk and explained the tools available for potential use in the future. The purpose of the community meetings was to:

- Share information about PSE's active planning and preparation for wildfires;
- Communicate PSE's ongoing and evolving coordination with other partners regarding wildfire planning and response; and
- Hear participants' concerns, considerations, and questions regarding Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

This report compiles information gathered in all three community meetings and includes meeting locations, attendance, key findings, frequently asked questions, promotion, involved partners, and next steps. Additional resources and information are provided throughout this report.

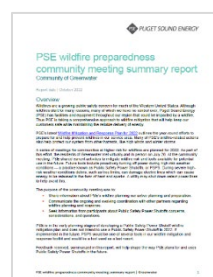
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: www.pse.com/en/pages/Wildfire-preparedness



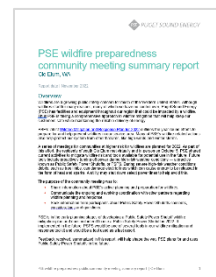
Wildfire and Mitigation Response Plan 2022



June 8 community meeting for Ronald, Roslyn, and west Cle Elum summary report



July 20 community meeting for Greenwater area summary report



October 5 community meeting for south Cle Elum area summary report

Figure 1: Additional resources.

COMMUNITY MEETING LOCATIONS

The community meetings were held in three electric distribution areas with higher wildfire risk where PSE could potentially use new wildfire mitigation tools (Figure 1).

- Community meeting 1: June 8, 2022 – West Cle Elum, Ronald, and Roslyn
- Community meeting 2: July 20, 2022 – Greenwater area
- Community meeting 3: October 5, 2022 – South Cle Elum

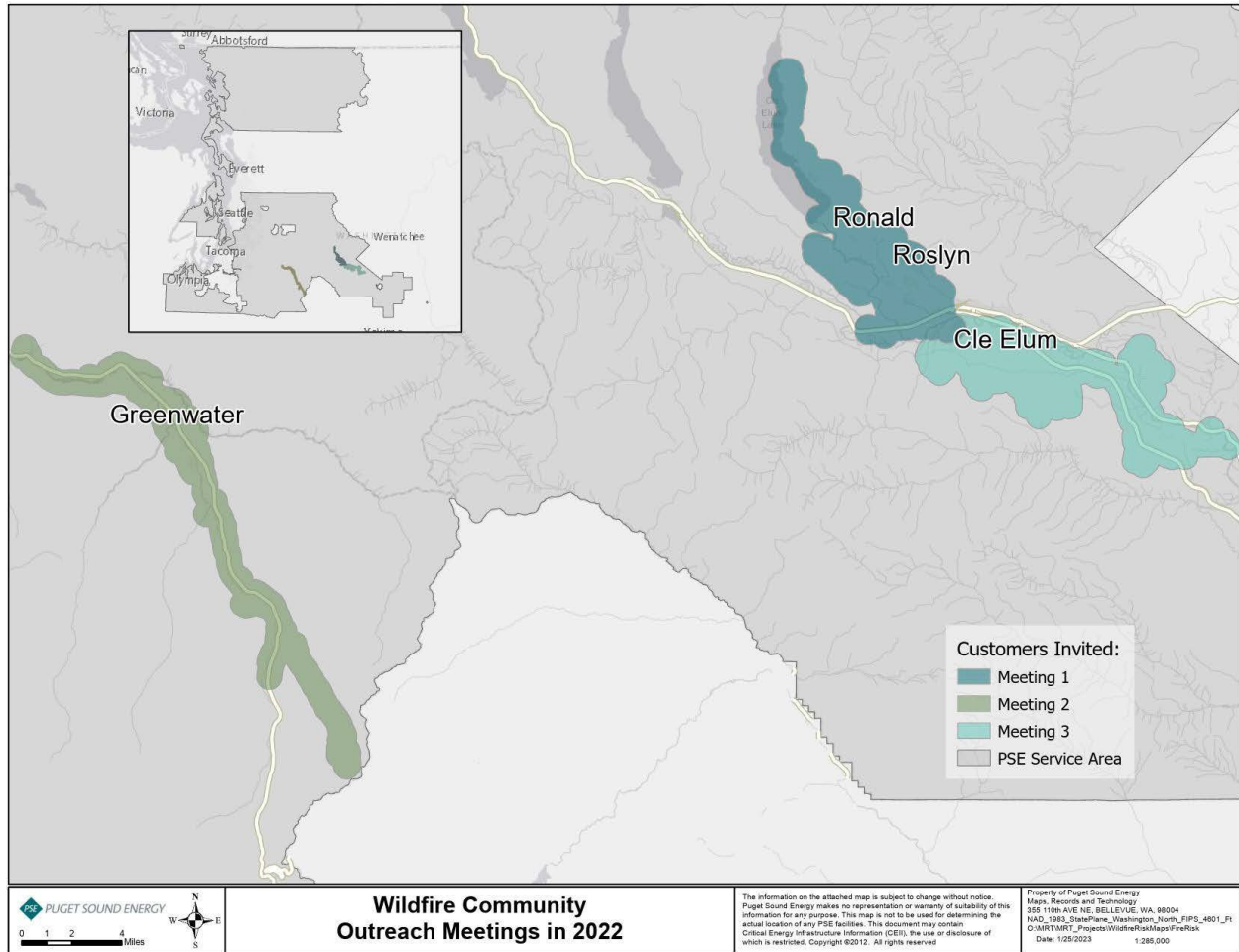


Figure 2: Community meeting locations within the PSE Service Area.

COMMUNITY MEETING ATTENDANCE

PSE staff, customers, and wildfire mitigation partners from state and local levels attended the meetings. In total, 135 people participated in the series of town hall meetings, with 108 virtual attendees, and 27 in-person attendees. Figure 3 shows the attendance data in more detail.

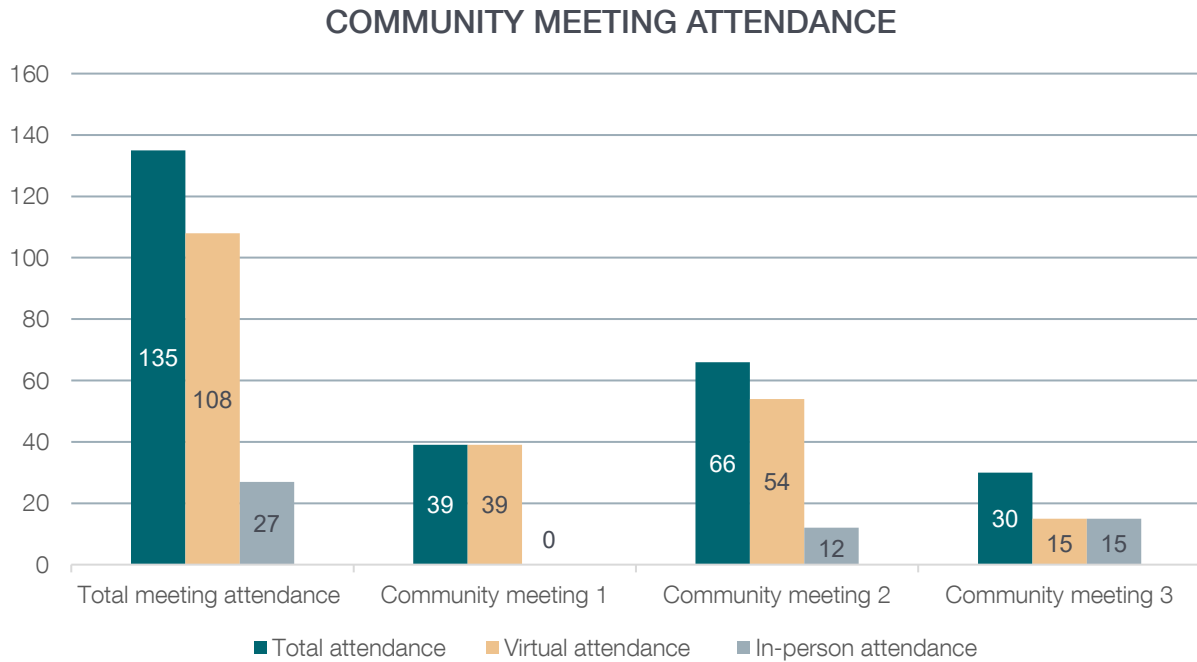


Figure 3: Community meeting attendance.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

To effectively collect feedback from customers during the meeting, PSE facilitated small group discussions. Participants were provided three scenarios and asked a series of questions based on those scenarios.

- **Scenario One** focused on the places where people get information about natural hazards and local emergencies.
- **Scenario Two** gathered insight on how people prepare for power outages, their concerns about having the power turned off, and how much notice they need in advance of a power outage.
- **Scenario Three** simulated a power outage and asked attendees to describe what support they would need and how they would like to receive information.

Full summaries of information and feedback collected from customers can be found in individual meeting summary reports.

WHERE PEOPLE GET INFORMATION ABOUT NATURAL HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES

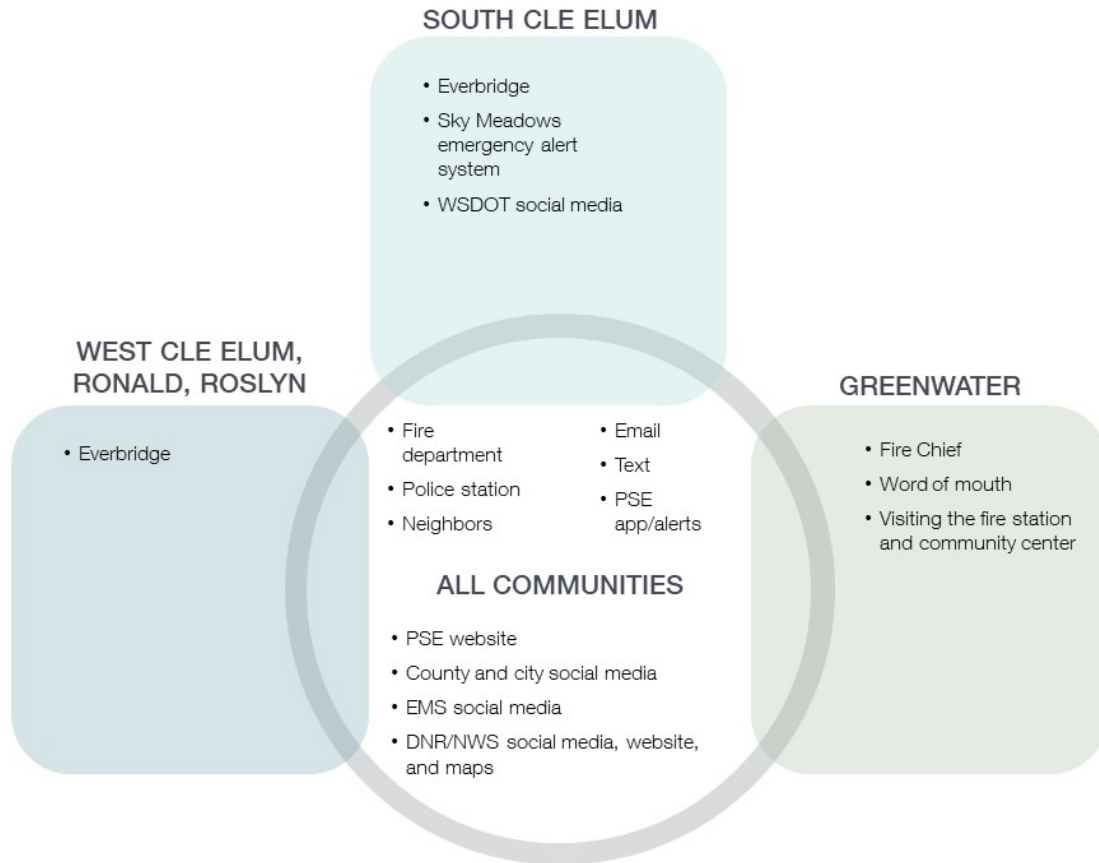


Figure 4: Scenario One feedback.

Responses from Scenario One revealed that residents in all communities rely on website, social media, email, and text alerts from a variety of sources for information during emergencies or wildfires. Local fire and police departments, the Department of Resources (DNR), and the National Weather Service (NWS) were mentioned as major sources for updates in all communities. Attendees in Greenwater and Cle Elum said they were more likely to utilize PSE-specific alert systems, and in Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Ronald, attendees said they were likely to rely on the county’s Everbridge software for warnings and updates. In Greenwater, where concerns about cell service and internet are high during extreme weather events, meeting attendees said there was significant community reliance on physically visiting the fire station. Additionally, word-of-mouth communication and communications from the Greenwater Fire Chief were mentioned as helpful sources of information. Cle Elum attendees said that they also rely on updates from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

HOW PEOPLE PREPARE, WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE, AND HOW MUCH NOTICE OF A PSPS THEY WOULD NEED

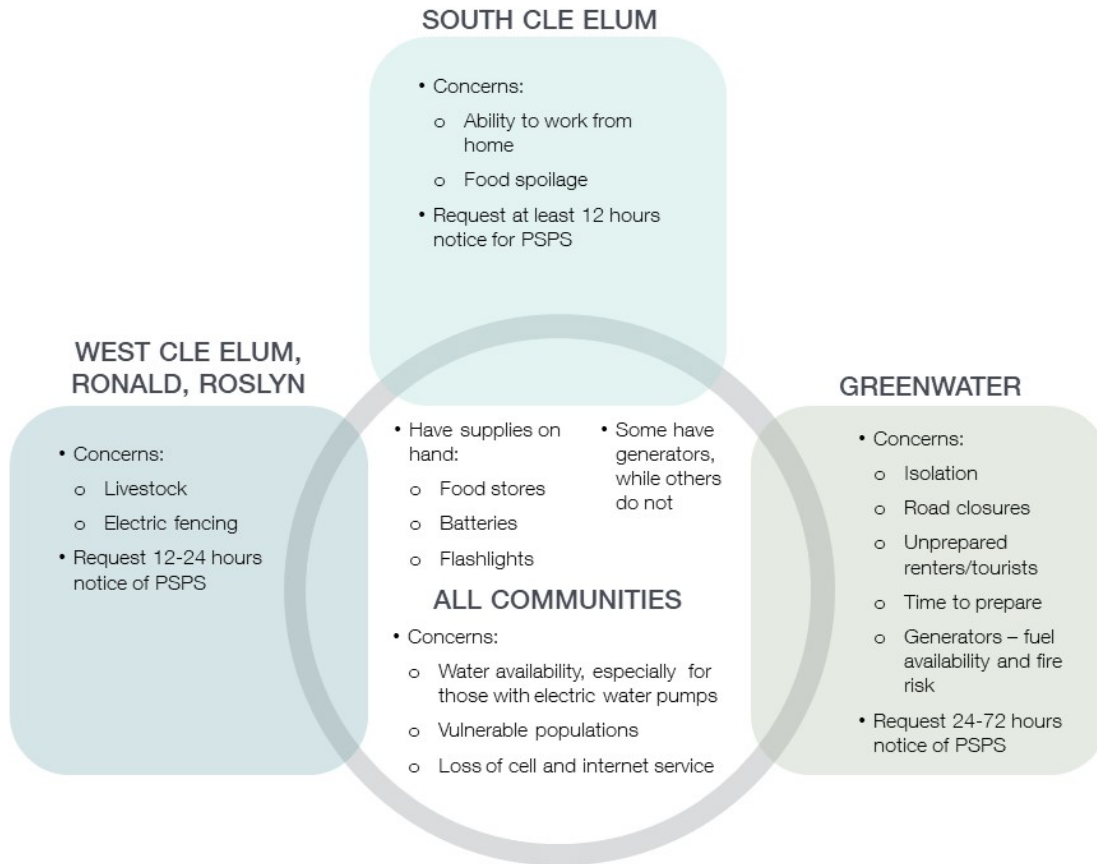


Figure 5: Scenario Two feedback.

One fire mitigation tool that PSE could use in the future is a Public Safety Power Shutoff, or a “PSPS.” A PSPS means that PSE would proactively turn off the power during high-risk weather conditions to prevent high winds and debris from damaging electric lines, which can release heat and sparks. A PSPS is one of several tools in PSE’s wildfire mitigation and response toolkit and it would be used only as a last resort. Feedback received from the community meetings will help shape the way PSE plans for and uses Public Safety Power Shutoffs in the future.

Scenario Two provided PSE with information on current preparation tactics, concerns, and timelines related to a PSPS. In all three communities, participants were concerned about the loss of cell and internet service, the safety of vulnerable populations, and water availability for those who rely on electric water pumps. Cle Elum, Ronald, Roslyn, and Greenwater participants all discussed their current ability to respond to outages with supplies like batteries, flashlights, and non-perishable food products. Attendees also noted that some community members have generators, but many do not. Greenwater attendees had concerns about isolation, road closures caused by fallen trees and branches, and their ability to make supply runs to nearby Enumclaw in the event of a PSPS. Across all communities, the consensus was that PSE should give residents at least 12- to

24-hours of notice prior to a PSPS. In Greenwater, attendees said that 48-72 hours would be preferable, and some in Cle Elum said as little as a few hours could be possible for preparation.

WHAT SUPPORT DO PEOPLE NEED AND HOW WOULD PEOPLE LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED DURING A POWER OUTAGE

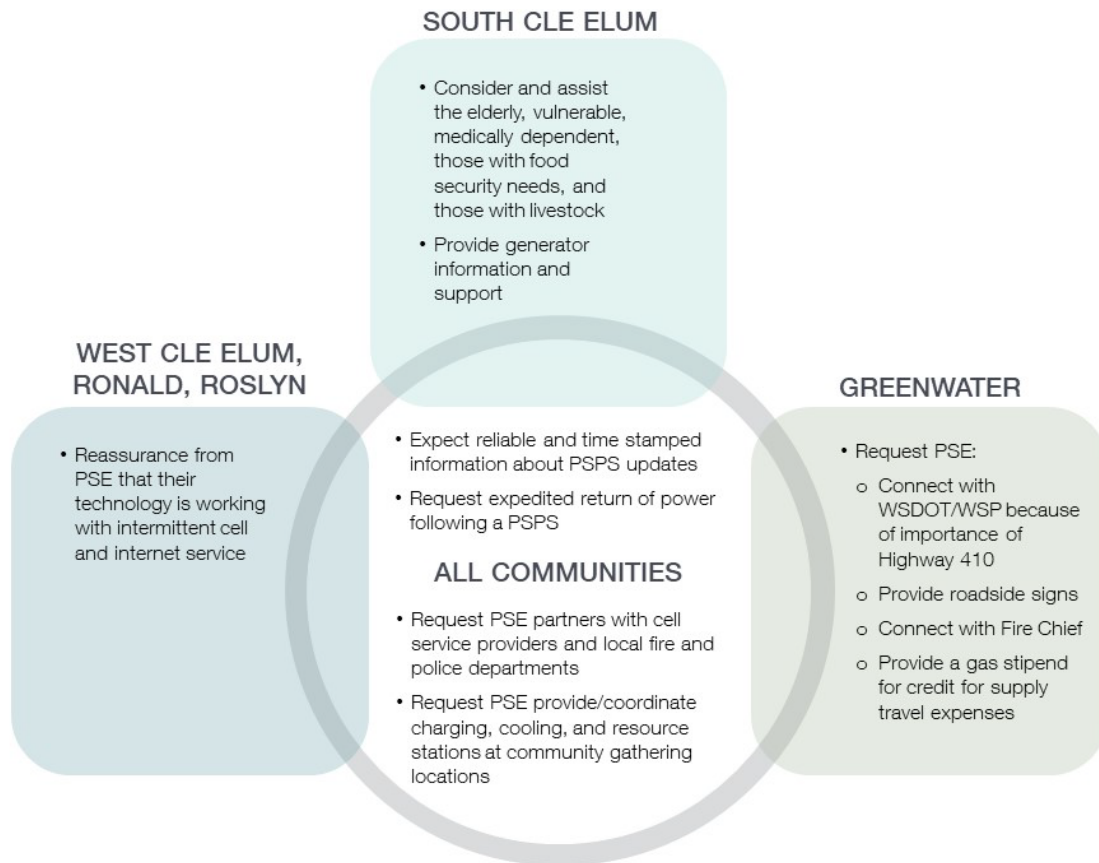


Figure 6: Scenario Three feedback.

When asked how PSE could best support communities during a PSPS, participants in all three community meetings stressed the importance of expected, reliable, and time-stamped informational updates sent out on a consistent and scheduled basis. Participants also called for PSE to partner with local fire departments, police, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to utilize existing communications systems that are trusted and effective in the community. Participants requested that PSE increase partnerships with cell phone service providers in hopes of adding cell towers and coordinating availability of portable cell towers during outages. In Greenwater, some attendees raised the idea of a gas stipend that would cover travel costs for supply trips in the event of a PSPS. Greenwater residents also advocated for road signage and a partnership between PSE, Washington State Patrol (WSP) and WSDOT to allow for better preparedness and road closure coordination during high-wind events.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS

Each community meeting offered time for attendees to ask PSE personnel questions about PSE’s wildfire mitigation planning efforts and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. In the third community meeting, attendees could also talk with the Kittitas County Fire District. The Kittitas County Fire District 7 staffed an information booth, and the Fire Chief answered questions during the question-and-answer session. In total, 22 questions were asked across all three meetings. All questions and answers can be found in the individual meeting summary reports.

QUESTIONS ASKED AT EACH MEETING

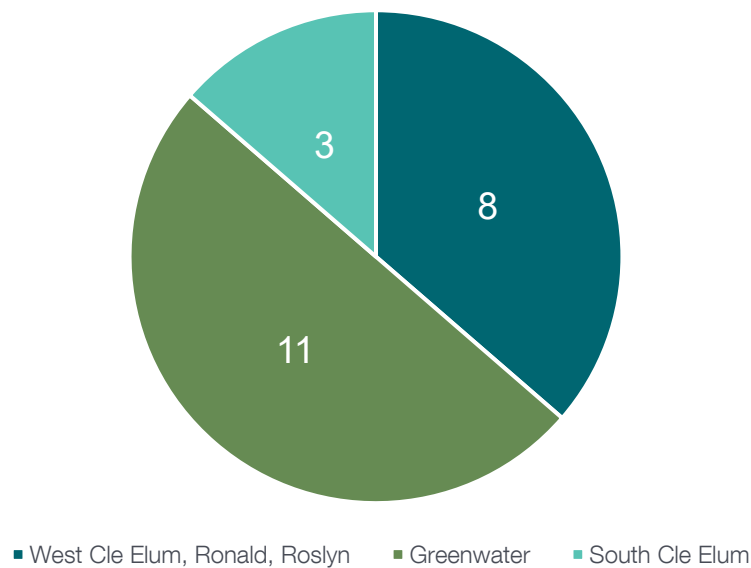


Figure 7: Number of questions asked at each community meeting.

COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNING LOGISTICS

To meet the goals of the community meetings, PSE worked to tailor each meeting to local community characteristics. This included how the meetings were advertised, accommodating limited access to high-speed internet, and inviting local partners to participate.

ADVERTISING THE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

To encourage participation by community members, PSE shared information in a number of ways.

- Letters and postcards to all customers served by the higher wildfire risk circuits.
- Emails to all customers served by the higher wildfire risk circuits with an email address listed on their PSE account.
- Fact sheet on wildfire mitigation and response, which was mailed to customers and posted on the wildfire webpage: www.pse.com/en/pages/Wildfire-preparedness. The fact sheet was also translated into Spanish.

- Shared information with local community groups, key stakeholders, fire response agencies, and elected officials with a request for them to share information through their established communications channels.
- Advertised the meeting in local newspapers.
- Issued media releases to local publications.

To minimize barriers to participation, while being mindful of COVID-19 safety guidelines, PSE held the community meetings virtually and in-person. Other learning and feedback-sharing opportunities were available, including one-on-one conversations with PSE’s Wildfire Task Force team members and opportunities to share comments online, through email, or over the phone. PSE also encouraged people to let us know if they have accommodation needs to fully participate in the community meeting so that we may address their needs.

INVOLVING PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

As part of the feedback process, PSE invited not only residents of the three communities, but also relevant state and local agency partners and community organizations. Some partners provided informational materials and resources as part of the meetings. A list of participating partners from all three meetings is featured below:

- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Greenwater Fire Department
- Roslyn Fire Department
- Kittitas County Fire Districts 1 and 7
- Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office
- Upper Kittitas County Senior Center
- Cle Elum Downtown Association
- Greenwater Community Center
- Crystal Mountain Resort
- Washington Refuse and Recycling Association
- HopeSource
- Pierce County Emergency Management
- The COAL Center (a Cle Elum organization that serves vulnerable populations)
- Washington State Office of the Attorney General

NEXT STEPS

The feedback and input shared at these community meetings will help shape the way PSE plans for and uses Public Safety Power Shutoffs in the future. PSE will proactively share updates with the community as we continue the planning process.

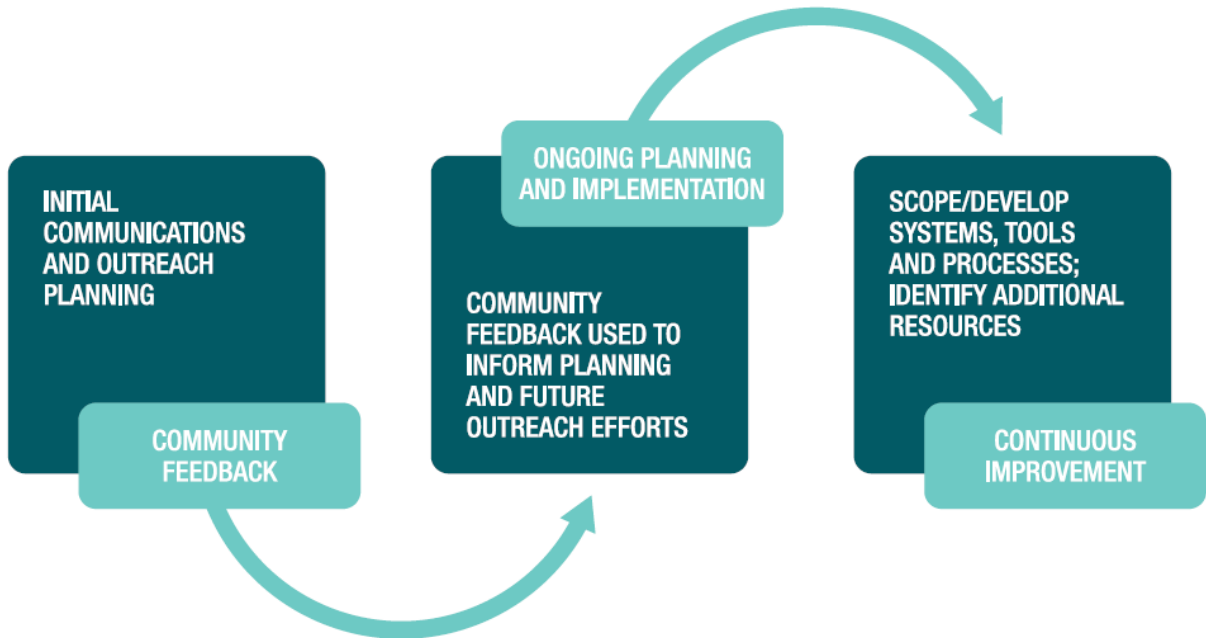


Figure 8: PSE's wildfire mitigation planning process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To learn more about how PSE is preparing for wildfire mitigation, stay updated on our Public Safety Power Shutoff plan, and provide comments and questions to PSE staff, visit [PSE's Wildfire Preparedness webpage](#), email wildfire.response@pse.com, or call 1-888-404-8773.