

# 2021 South Sound Science Symposium Project Summary

## Title: Subjective Human Wellbeing Related to the Natural Environment in South Sound

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**Project Summary:** The Puget Sound Partnership collects data on Human Wellbeing Vital Signs to understand how Puget Sound residents relate to their natural environment. The following are South Sound specific results of a survey designed to assess the activities and values of Puget Sound residents related to the environment, including how they relate to environmental stewardship behaviors. About 16% of residents strongly agree or agree that they are well represented by the leaders of Puget Sound natural resource management, 21% strongly agree or agree that they trust regional policymakers to protect Puget Sound's natural resources, and 36% agree or strongly agree that they have the freedom to make personal decisions about how natural resources are managed on their property. Individuals participate in environmental stewardship activities about once a month on average. Around 9% of individuals indicated they work in natural environments at least some of the time. In the Spring, at least once per month, individuals indicate they participate in the following outdoor activities: about 89% of the population gardens, about 68% BBQs or picnics; 71% use paved paths, 64% use unpaved trails, 9% use motorized vehicles on trails, 26% use motorized boats, 34% participate in non-motorized water sports, 9% of the population hunts, 31% fishes, 15% ski or snowboard, 34% camp, and 68% of the population views wildlife or birds. Over 75% of residents strongly agree or agree that they are proud to live in the Puget Sound. About 66% strongly agree or agree that they are attached to its natural environment and feel responsible for taking care of Puget Sound's natural environments. For locally caught food: only 19% of participants collect crab or shrimp, 26% of participants collect clams (geoducks, oysters, or mussels), 3% of participants collect squid, 10% of participants hunt deer or elk, 4% hunt waterfowl, and 56% collect plants, berries or mushrooms.

Overall, these results indicate that people have strong connections to their local environment and enjoy spending time outdoors. However, residents infrequently engage in environmental stewardship actions and in general are apathetic toward environmental governance structures. This research indicates that natural resource management strategies could be more effective if tailored toward how people interact with their natural environment to increase awareness of stewardship opportunities and advance Puget Sound recovery efforts.

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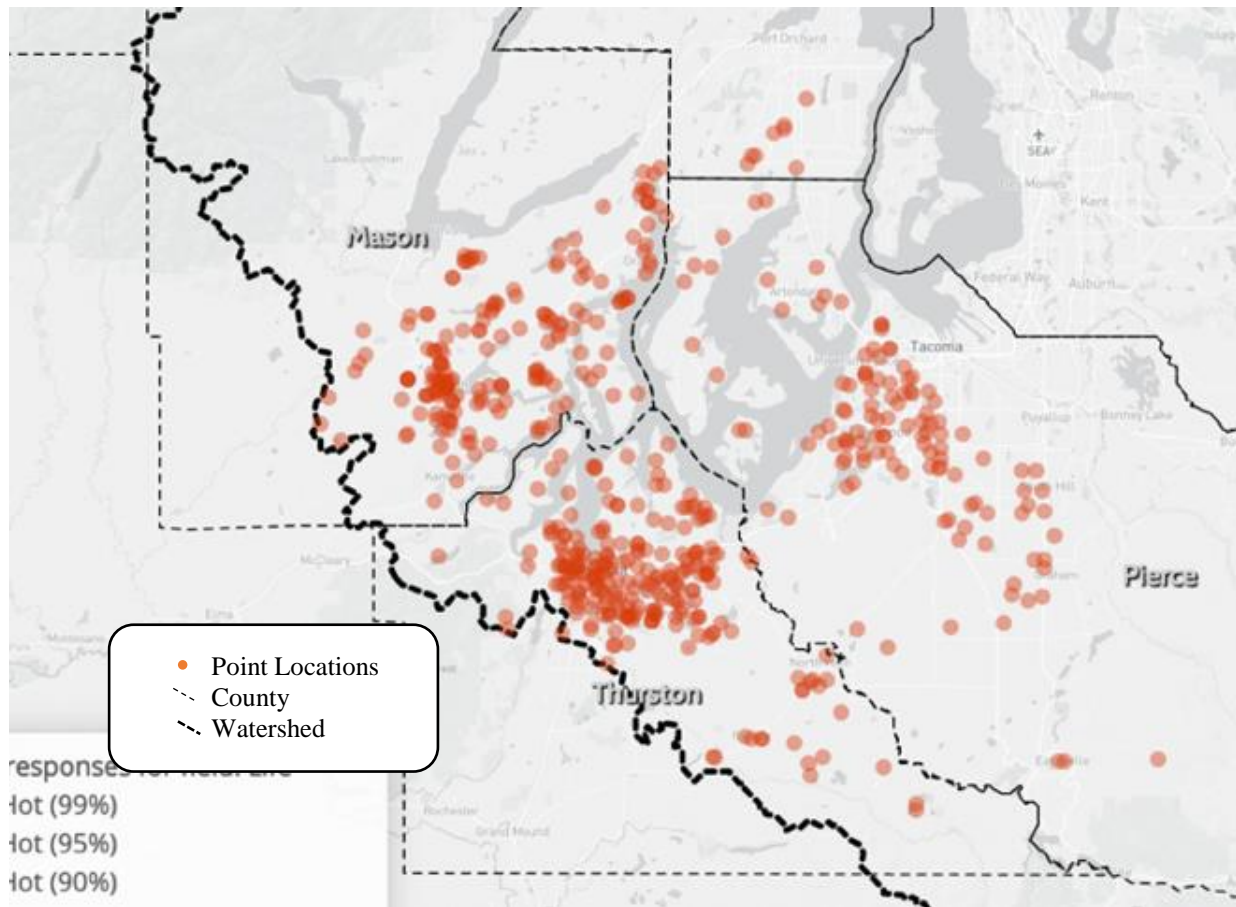


Figure. Individual point locations of survey participants in South Sound.

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