

# Theme 3: Connections to place

The importance of the bonds that residents form with their social, built, and natural environment.

## Emotional ties to place



its still burned down the street. So I guess, **I feel like there's reminders all the time...**The Tuscan village, they used to have Renaissance fairs. And it was like all up through this hill and it was super cool, like somehow, they packed it all in there and it was like a yearly event. And then you can kind of see the like arch, like a doorway and it was kind-- Rustic and looked Italian. Yeah, it was cute. I mean... it's like a landmark on the main street that you noticed. And so that is still empty. I mean, it says private property...So I don't know. **That one kind of makes me sad, I guess when I go by,** 'cause I go to the post office a lot next to it.

Lake County

**We didn't just lose a home. We really lost a community that had,** I mean [my wife] had raised her kids there she was there 30 years. And other people were too, a lot of people. The majority of the people there were there a long time, so they, and it was a really well-oiled machine. I mean it wasn't perfect, but everyone got along, and it was a beautiful place to live. And so, you know, we didn't just lose a house, we really lost, It was like a little village.

Sonoma County



## The functional dimensions of place



**that I got to ride my bike everywhere,** and have to drive, anywhere you have to drive. So yeah, and I have strong ties to Chico too...but I feel more connected to Paradise now more than ever though.

Butte County

I think it's just the convenience of, you know, living what seems like fifteen minutes from town is great. It's peaceful. But as we get older, I think just having the convenience of being able to walk down to the farmer's market and not have to drive everywhere. **That was my favorite thing about living in town is**



Not a big house, a comfortable house that the two of us could live in with shop space. Because I'm not even interested in a house that doesn't have some shop space. **I really liked being in the country.** I was on nine acres on the edge of town, so it was nice **to be able to walk to town.** The girls would walk to school, so being close to town was fine, but we couldn't see our neighbors and we liked that, so we

wanted to find, **some place with some privacy.** And the first place we almost made an offer on was in a neighborhood, and there were just too many things about the town itself. It had a shop already built with all the tools in it.

Plumas County



We own 10 acres behind our property and so it's and we have horses. And so, it's a, **it's really a great property for us as long as we have our horses.** So that was another part of the decision-making process was that we are you can actually see some of the trees up there because my husband did such a good job of maintaining that because it was a forest, but he really had done a good job of maintaining it.

Lake County

I had built a deck on our place that pergola has bare. That's right off our master bedroom. ...That was your house in Greenville... **We don't have that here. So, it's something if I want something like that, we're going to have to build it and, you know, it's not that easy to recreate...** So that that was some of the things like I say, we were, we're having to change what we find important. And I, you know, I can give up the wine making and the deck with the pergola if I can either rebuild it or find and find other avenues to be creative, if you will.

Plumas County



## Connections to nature

Swimming. Dog swimming. You know, **we go to walk up and down [the creek].** The salmon spawn every year. Yeah. Oh, yeah. The salmon are huge. I mean, in the middle of the night, **we always slept with the windows open,** which we still do. You could hear splashing. And I thought, oh, there must be a bear in the creek. And [husband] is telling me, tell me, no, that's the fish. That's the salmon. No way. That is not fish. There's no way a fish could make that loud of a noise. And sure enough, in the morning, you get up and here's the salmon, you know, fighting over who's going to get to the eggs.

Butte County



So, I think a lot of it has to do with, **it's the environment...That's why we came back here...** I don't have a lot of fancy stuff, or I don't, I don't go to, out to clubs or I, I just, **I'm very connected to the natural world. Which is for me is my environment,** my garden, my animals, you know, that sort of stuff. Every night I sit out on that porch and just listen to the toads and the, the birds and the animal sounds. That's why I love it here. **And it's a, you know, it's not a beautiful area right now, but it was a very beautiful area...**And I think to me, it's kind of like if you had a really, really good

friend, and...then they got into some horrible accident, and they were grossly disfigured. And at first when you saw your friend, you would go, oh, my poor friend. They're so grossly disfigured, but then it would just be your friend again...that's kind of how it is for me here.

Sonoma County



What I see as recovery is business, people, the town coming back in that respect. But for me, a lot of it is the land recovery. **I think in a way that's more important because we need to have a healthy environment, and you need to have the land recover in order for people to be healthy and happy here again.** Just looking at the town, it still looks like with all the trees gone, the rebuilding has been a half and half. Half stick-built homes and half manufactured homes.... It's not pretty looking out that way. I can see signs of the land recovering all around and it's happening pretty quickly.

Butte County