

Theme 6: Reasons to leave

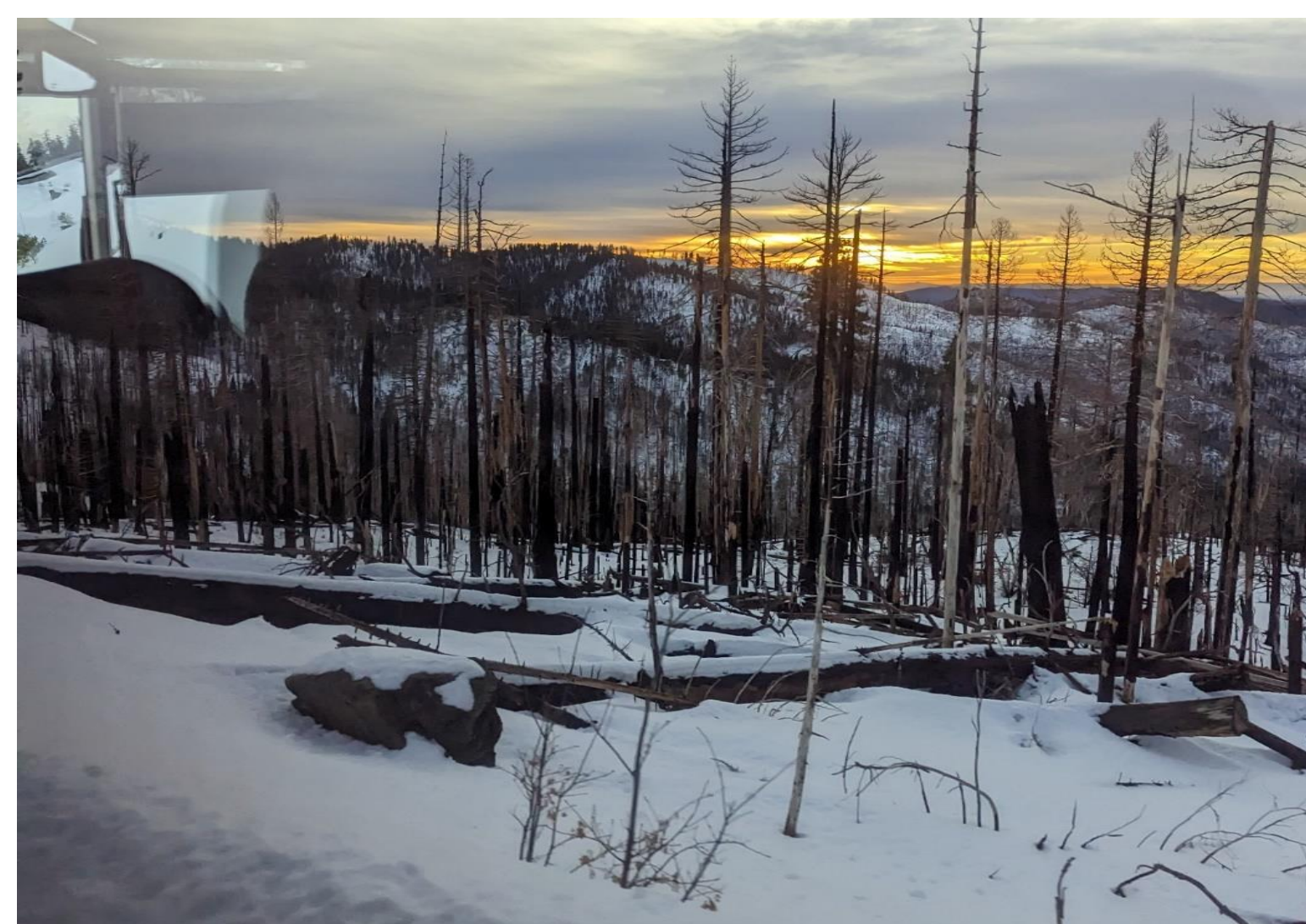
Factors that motivated survivors to leave their previous place of residence.

Burden of rebuilding



I was approached by a grant for California Recovers. And, well it was looking pretty good and then... actually that just ended a couple months ago. I finally just was like; **I can't do this anymore. You guys are ridiculous. It'd been over a year of back and forth just providing them with paperwork and paperwork and they wanted me to sign off to say, to commit to it, but they couldn't tell me what my contribution ultimately would be.** And I'm like, I can't sign a blank check... They're like, well you... oh, well the numbers are changing, we can't give you an exact number.

Butte County



I might have stayed. Right now, Concow, for the most part if you got burned out, **it's a young man's game to get back in it because it's a lot of work.** You got to have a determination because you're going to end up probably doing a lot of the building yourself.

Butte County

Lack of sense of community



I have lived here 20 years. Everybody had an opinion that people shouldn't be allowed to rebuild at Fountain Grove... On Facebook mostly... Everything was all about Coffey Park. And Coffey Park is so awesome. And everybody in, you know, **they all rebuilt like super fast, and they had such a good community and such, you know comradery among, we did not have that at all. We did not have that. It felt like everybody was on their own.** And I think part of it was because most of 'em were custom homes, most of them.

And then people started doing, you know, really different things as well. So, nobody was on, nobody was on the same page. And they're definitely, that sense of community was definitely not there.

Sonoma County

Risk reduction



Thing costs increased dramatically. And so that was an issue. **And then just the fact of building another house in a wildfire zone.** That was the part that said, you know, I thought it was crazy to do this again. Uh, and everybody just, you know, built the stick houses again, you know, two by fours, two by sixes. OK, they put a little bit of Hardie planking on the sides, but my house had Hardy plank. It didn't do anything, you know. **So it's like it just felt to me like repeating a lesson I had already learned,** and even to this day I I don't necessarily want to be a homeowner in this area anymore. It's just too much of a burden to carry over summer and too much work and too much cost to keep the house protected. **Lake County**



I was in Greenville and I really wanted to buy a house and that's where I could afford to buy a house. And I I was looking all over the United States... I looked on the coast of California, in Humboldt County. I was just priced out of everything that I wanted to be. **I wanted to be near the coast because I was so fire paranoid.** Mm hm. And I was just like, oh, be safe if I can just get to the water. Because living through a fire is just so, it was really terrifying.

Plumas County

Concerns about the future

I'm happy for the [multi-family] housing part, but I don't know that I necessarily want to live right next door to it, because **I'm already having problems with theft and vandalism.** Somebody stole our water, truck and discharged fire extinguishers all over inside of our shop for no reason at all, and it's just been... Yeah, I'm frustrated, even if nobody's living there.

Butte County



I lost a bunch of weight like just from stress... We're like, okay, we'll keep looking around here. And we just watched the prices rise over probably the first three months we watched them like you'd see a home that was \$200,000 I'm just going to use that number like shoot up to \$300. That's a 50% raise like we were seeing that all over the place. Homes that we really wanted, like the ones that ended up used to get listed for like \$315 or \$330... **I'm like, we can't afford these if they keep going up, Like we're going to get pushed out of California or pushed out of the area.**

Butte County

Decisions of family and friends



Well, the fire destroyed a lot of, well, what I say about the first fire, and it's true for the ten years later, it just it destroyed our networking our, the fabric of our community. **Our togetherness and our family and friends and neighbors.** I was, I lived on a piece of property with eight land partners, and we were really into being back to the land, and down to earth, and real simple living in and really bonded with our neighbors. But when our structure, so many were destroyed, and we had to move elsewhere to find shelter.

It broke those ties of the you know community network that we had and that was, so in a way, the fire, **the loss of the structures was not as important or not as damaging to our being as the loss of our freedom and our way of living.**

Sonoma County

I was going to retire at the end of the school year because I was teaching, and maybe we could be happy in Paradise. So we... one of the reasons we decided to stay in Paradise was this little granddaughter, and our daughter and her husband... Well, we decided that we-- **Our neighbors weren't rebuilding. Our family didn't visit us as often as we thought.**

And we were going to have to drive down to the gym 30 minutes each way, every day or whenever we wanted to see live music. **And we decided that it wasn't really worth it.**

Sonoma County

