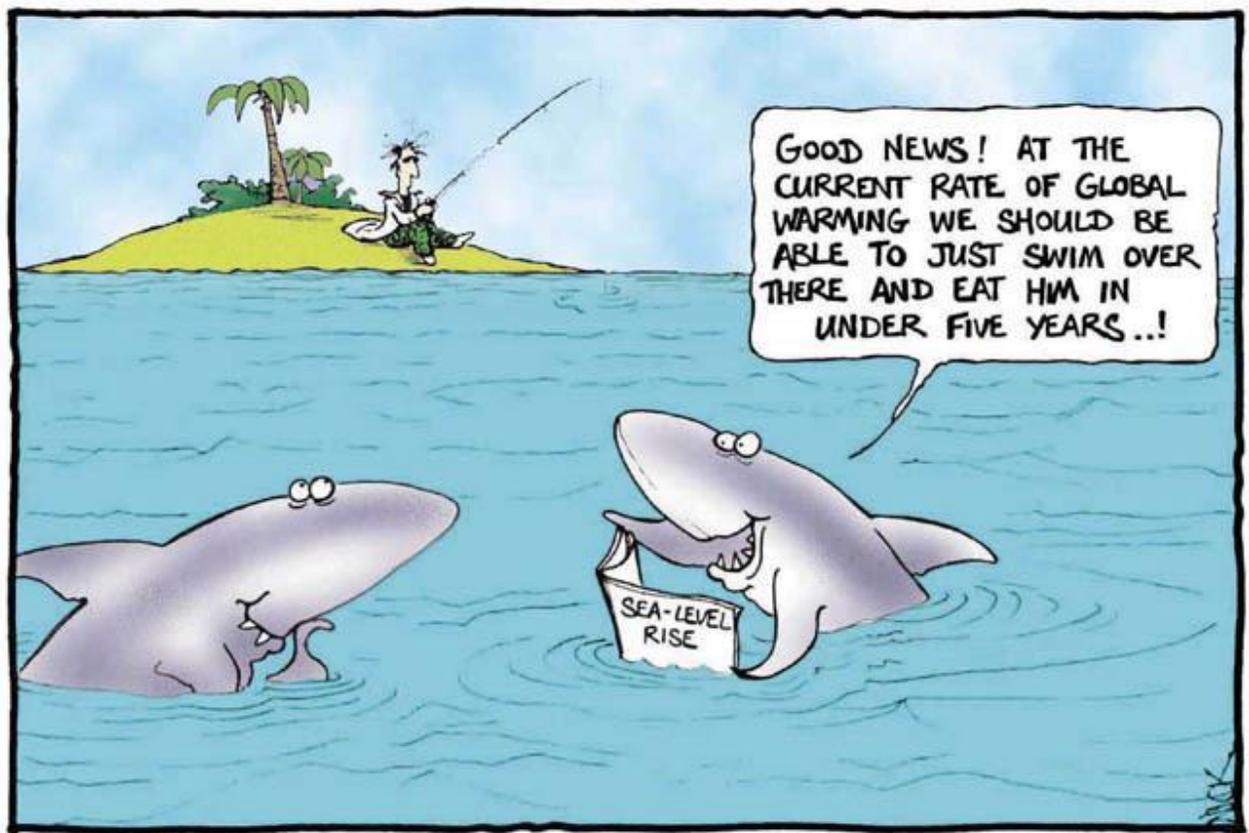




**THURSTON  
CLIMATE  
ADAPTATION  
PLAN**

Overview: TRPC's watershed-based climate adaptation planning effort

June 6, 2016



Cartoon by Nick D. Kim, <http://lab-initio.com>.  
Reprinted with website permissions for research and educational purposes.

# Sustainable Thurston Priority Goals

 Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound.

 Ensure that the region's water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment.

 Move toward a carbon-neutral community.

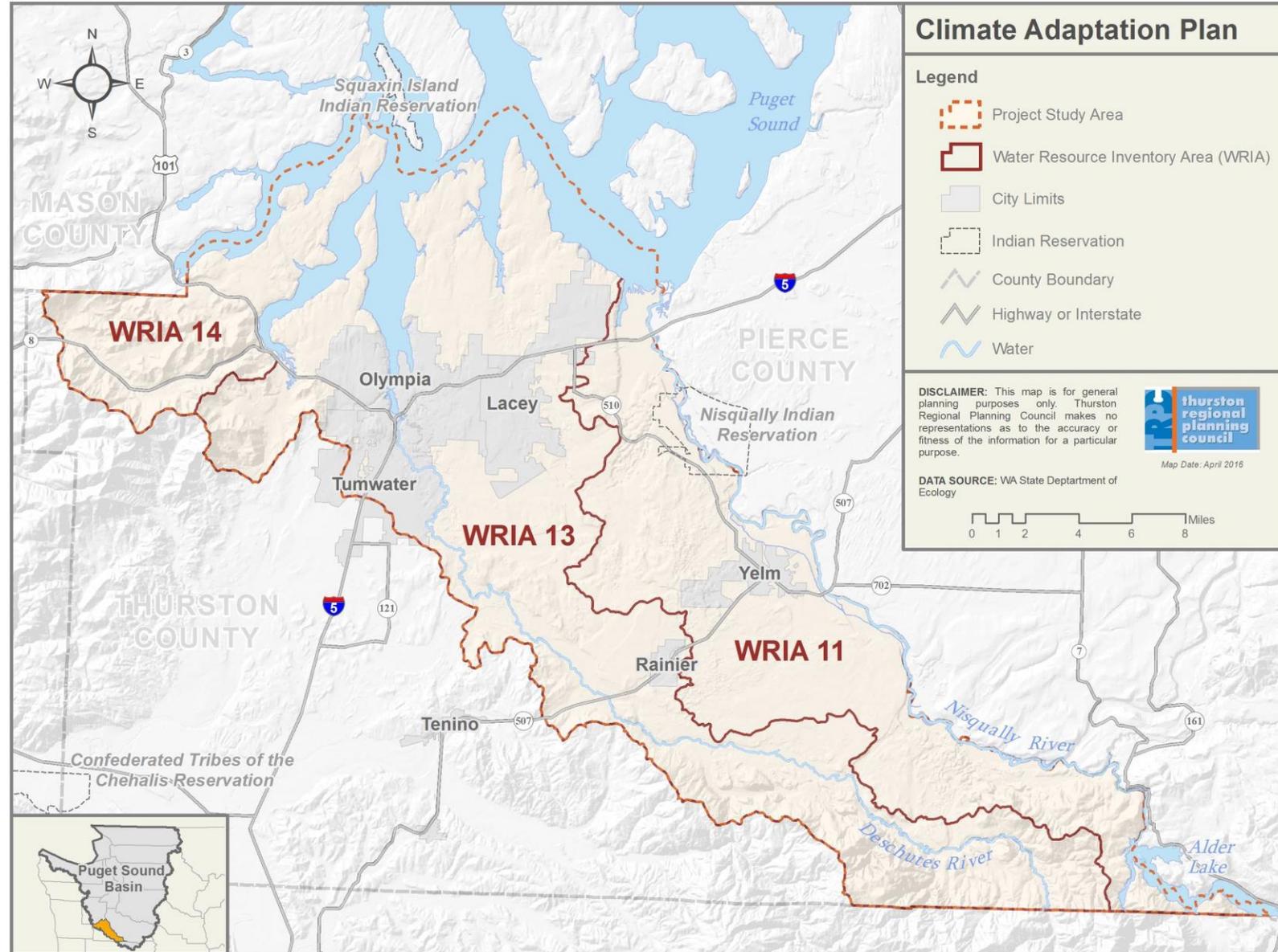
- First Action Step: Find resources for a climate action strategy





# Project Overview

- ▶ **Funding:** \$250,000 National Estuary Program grant
- ▶ **Purpose:** Watershed-based plan with actions to prepare for and cope with climate impacts
- ▶ **Timeframe:** Q4 2015 - Q4 2017
- ▶ **Area:** Thurston County watersheds that drain into Puget Sound



# Climate Change Projections

## ► Outlook:

- Rising average annual air temperature *generally* means warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers over the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Changing hydrologic cycle will exacerbate existing hazards, resiliency risks

## ► Risks & Impacts:

- Shrinking snowpack, glaciers = changes seasonal streamflow, water storage
- Changing oceans = threatens local fisheries (acidification)
- Rising sea levels = exacerbates coastal flooding, erosion
- Warmer lakes and streams = threatens water quality, habitat
- Bigger storms = stresses infrastructure, endangers people
- Deeper droughts = spurs water shortages, wildfires, crop losses

(Source: UW Climate Impacts Group)

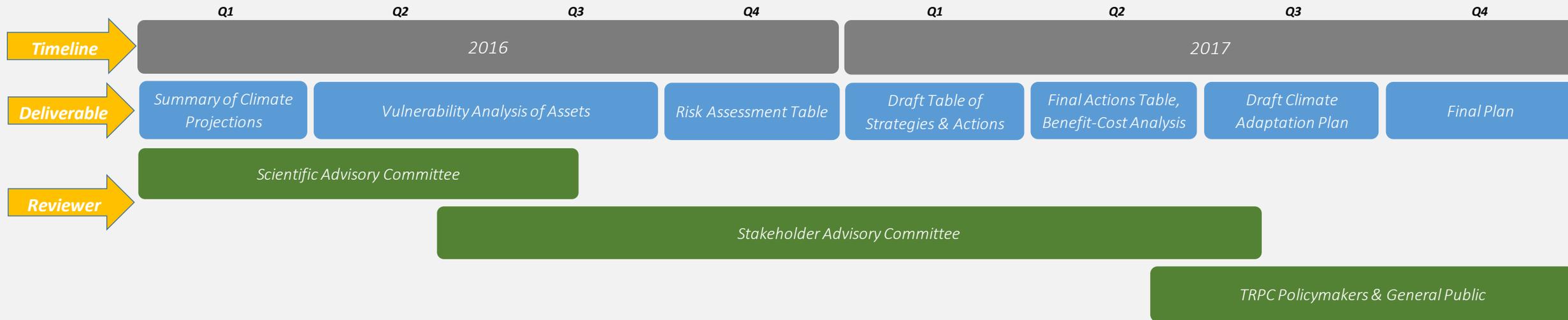




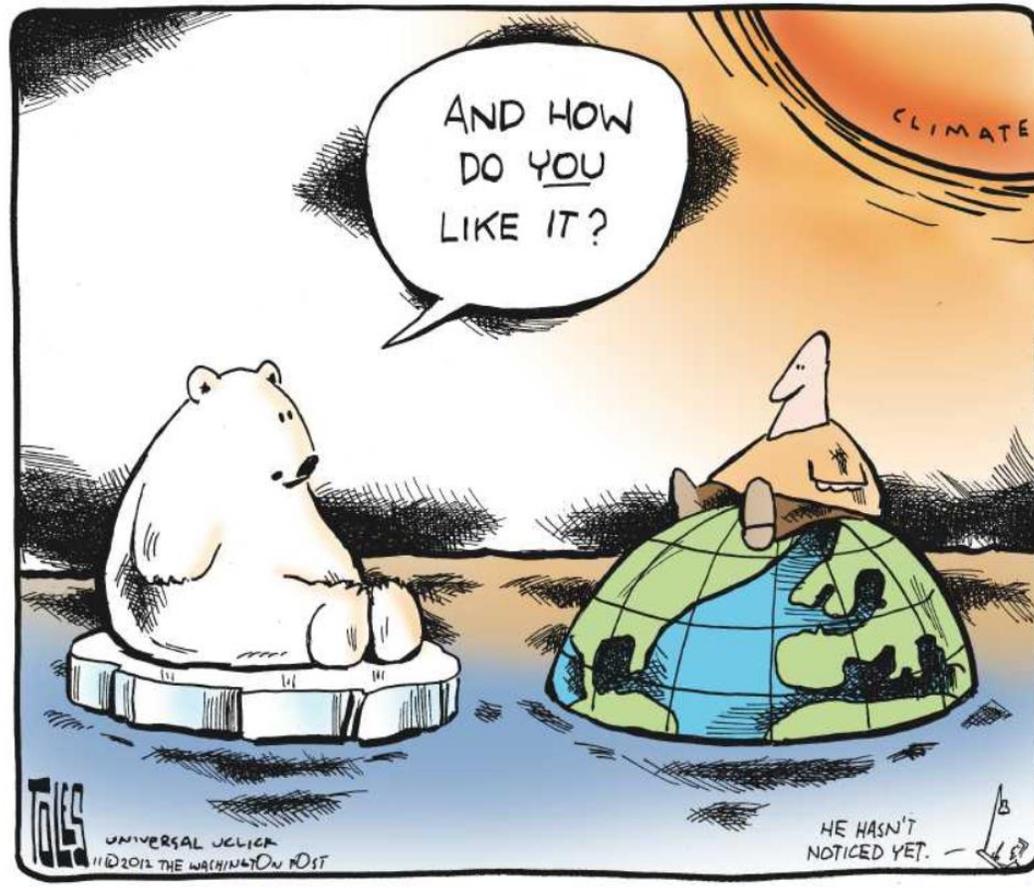
# Project components

- ▶ Review scientific literature and climate models
- ▶ Assess local vulnerabilities and risks
- ▶ Develop adaptation strategies and analyze costs, benefits
- ▶ Evaluate recommendations and approve plan

## Process Diagram



# ... Questions?



Cartoon by Tom Toles, Washington Post

Downloaded from:

<http://thecomixnews.com/edtoons/2012/1128/environment/01.php>