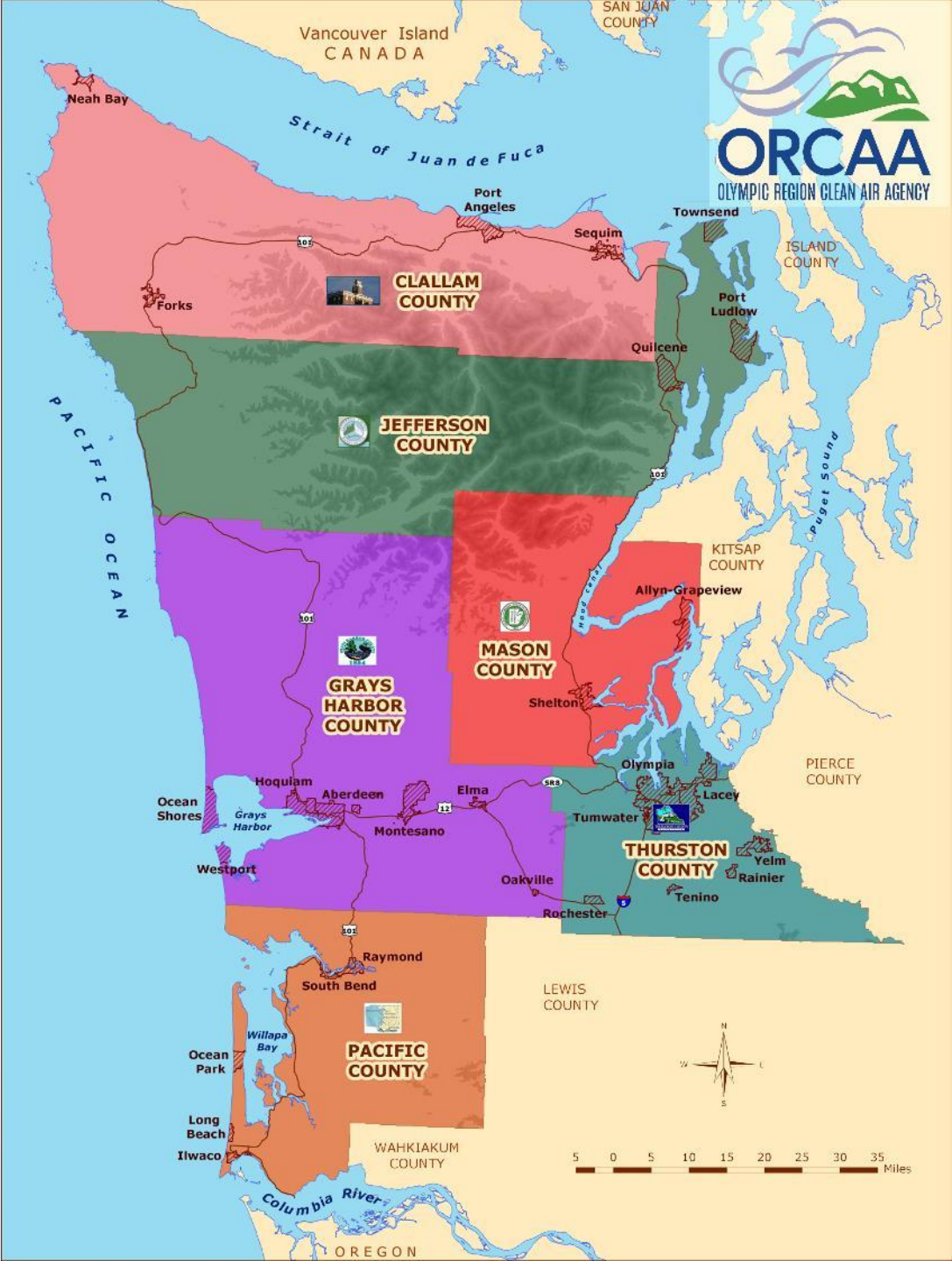


Innovative Partnership: Reducing trash burning in unhoused camps

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Safer Spaces Outreach & Advocacy Program (SSOAP)

A 6-month pilot project with the goal of piloting a new and more effective approach to addressing hazardous burning in unsheltered camp communities, focused on outreach, resource connection and education, as opposed to disciplinary enforcement or displacement.



Survey Results



86% said they **used fire** to meet their basic needs **multiple times a week**.

Residents identified **“getting rid of garbage”** and **“staying warm”** as by far the **most common reasons for hazardous burning**.

53% said they had been affected by a **dangerous, uncontrolled fire** as a result of burning for warmth at some point.

27% said they were **“very unprepared”** to deal with a fire emergency.

Over 50% of residents at each site reported that it is difficult for them to get **garbage removal** or **heating supplies**.

When asked what resources would help improve fire safety and reduce hazardous burning, by far the most common response was **“better access to propane,”** followed by better access to **garbage removal**, access to **wood**, and access to **cooking supplies**.

Program Services

1. **Garbage removal and distribution of supplies like trash bags.**
2. Distribution of dry firewood, propane and heating support
3. Distribution of other survival supplies
4. **Complaint response and resolution**
5. Safe and legal burning education
6. Case management







Outcomes



- **In total, at least 50,000 pounds of garbage have been removed**
- Burning trash continues to be a fact of life at the camps. However, trash fires that are occurring are smaller and happening more sporadically.
- Ongoing & day-to-day garbage removal is still an unmet need.
- Proliferation of trash bags in the camps through SSOAP has led to more trash being bagged and piled even if adequate removal remains a challenge.
- Low number of complaints received by SSOAP related to hazardous burning.

Conclusion –

Look outside your usual list of partners when working on hard problems, there might be a group or individual who can help.

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