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Research Poster: Climate change survey of public agencies and organizations

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Climate Change Survey of Public Agencies and Organizations

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Outline of the Policy, Decision Making, and Outreach Component¹:

Accelerated changes in climate are occurring now in Nevada and will continue into the future, leading to complex changes and feedbacks among climate, biophysical, and human systems.

- Most efforts to address these issues are directed at the global scale, and understanding of regional impacts and processes is limited.

- Nevada seeks to create a statewide interdisciplinary program that stimulates transformative research, education, and outreach on effects of regional climate change on ecosystem resources and supports use of this knowledge by policy makers.

- Outreach to diverse stakeholders will be accomplished by identifying important needs in climate change research as well as informing and involving the public in climate change science.

- Policy makers who need to make prompt and prudent decisions on how to act in the face of these impacts will be supported by scientific findings.

¹ Language adapted from NSF Proposal #0814372



Communication and collaboration between scientists and policy makers will be crucial in order to implement effective responses to climate change.



Local and state governments will likely play a vital role in the administration and implementation of climate change policy.



The glacier at Wheeler Peak in a remote corner of the Nevada desert.

Study Background:

Research from the discipline of political science points to the important role that local government plays in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

- State and municipal governments have emerged as primary agents for policy experimentation and innovation, especially in the areas of climate change and environmental policy.

- Public policy in the areas of environmental and resource management usually require implementation at the local, regional, and state levels.

- Local governments are the jurisdictional unit that most closely matches local needs for climate change adaptation.

- Local governments often lack both the resources and the timely and accurate scientific information necessary to implement policy effectively.



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Research Questions:

- How do local organizations and sub-federal agencies perceive the priority of climate change impacts to their mission and activities?
 - Have they incorporated climate change into their organizational planning?
- Do the sources from which they obtain information about climate change affect their perceptions of and ability to plan for climate change?
 - Does the capacity of local organizations and sub-federal agencies affect their ability to plan for climate change?
 - What institutional constraints do they face in the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies?
- What opportunities exist to improve coordination of activities and sharing of information between local organizations and sub-federal agencies?



Arid Western states rely on the water provided by consistent mountain snowpack.



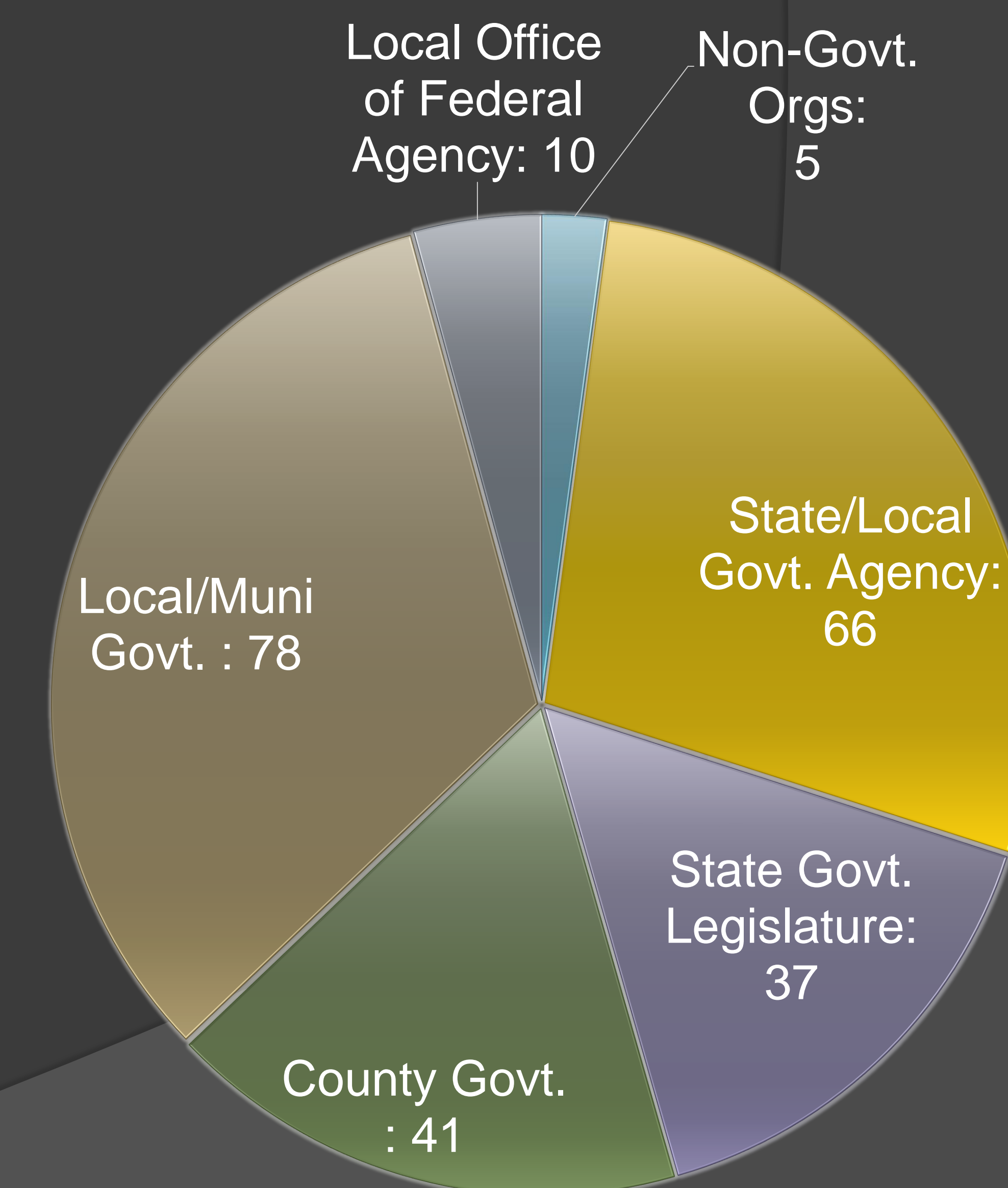
Policy makers may have to adapt their organizations to deal with increased drought and water scarcity.

The Survey:

The Climate Change Survey seeks to collect data from state and local government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, that will help to answer the research questions.

The first phase of the study is sending the survey out to all relevant state and local governments and non-profit organizations in the State of Nevada. The survey is administered in three formats: online, by mail, and by phone interview.

The second phase of the study will expand the administration of the survey to the Western Region of the U.S. States to be included are: California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming.



Distribution of sample of local and sub-federal government agencies and organizations in Nevada. n = 237

Administration of the survey begins in Nevada and will subsequently be expanded to cover the entire Western Region.

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