Overarching Questions:
1. How can rural communities assess the vulnerabilities, risks, and opportunities of climate change?
2. What lessons can be learned from risk and vulnerability assessment processes in the Columbia Basin?

In 2008, the Lena Creek Floods demonstrated the need for risk-based frameworks to ensure the development of climate-sensitive adaptation strategies in rural communities. The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) supported five communities in the Columbia Basin region of Canada to address critical issues in the current climate, which foster quality of life and support programs and initiatives that create value for the future.

Case Studies – Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Process:
- **District of Elkford**
  - Planning Priorities: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
  - Identified Climate Change Impacts: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
- **City of Kimberley**
  - Planning Priorities: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
  - Identified Climate Change Impacts: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
- **City of Rossland**
  - Planning Priorities: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
  - Identified Climate Change Impacts: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
- **City of Castlegar**
  - Planning Priorities: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
  - Identified Climate Change Impacts: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
- **Village of Kaslo/ Area D**
  - Planning Priorities: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure
  - Identified Climate Change Impacts: 1. Water, 2. Infrastructure

Key Lessons Learned – Assessing Vulnerability, Risk & Opportunities:
- Collaborate with surrounding communities, scientific organizations, and academic institutions to obtain climate data.
- Ensure a good mix of local community involvement and involvement from experts and professionals.
- Keep the process simple and avoid complex terminology.
- Establish a framework and methodology for incorporating climate change opportunities.
- Adjust and modify the process to fit the needs of your community.
- Use a silent vote and Delphi technique to obtain risk and opportunity ratings.

Regardless of outcome, the process is an important learning and capacity building tool to help understand climate change impacts and to mainstream climate change adaptation planning into strategic planning and daily operations.