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How 'Climate Change' Discourse in the Past Ten Years, 2010-2020, Has Been Viewed in a Rural and Urban County in Idaho

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Abstract

This project will be comparing two counties in Idaho, Ada and Shoshone, based on overarching variables to compare the climate change discourse between the two. Counties were chosen over individual cities because of the inclusion of rural and urban areas within a county. The U.S. Census definitions of urban and rural areas were also taken into consideration in the decision of the two counties. All of the information gathered is based on data from the 2010 Census. The overarching variables that will create the framework used to compare the counties climate change discourse will consist of: education, legislation and media. Each overarching variable is further broken down into quantifiable variables to assess the discourse in both counties. For example, legislation will be further broken down into state and local legislation including climate change vocabulary in any way. This research has importance because it begins to look at specific areas in Idaho and how individuals in those areas view and interact with climate change discourse. Identifying such differences in discourse can assist in how individuals interact with and view climate change, which will be critical in properly framing and addressing issues.

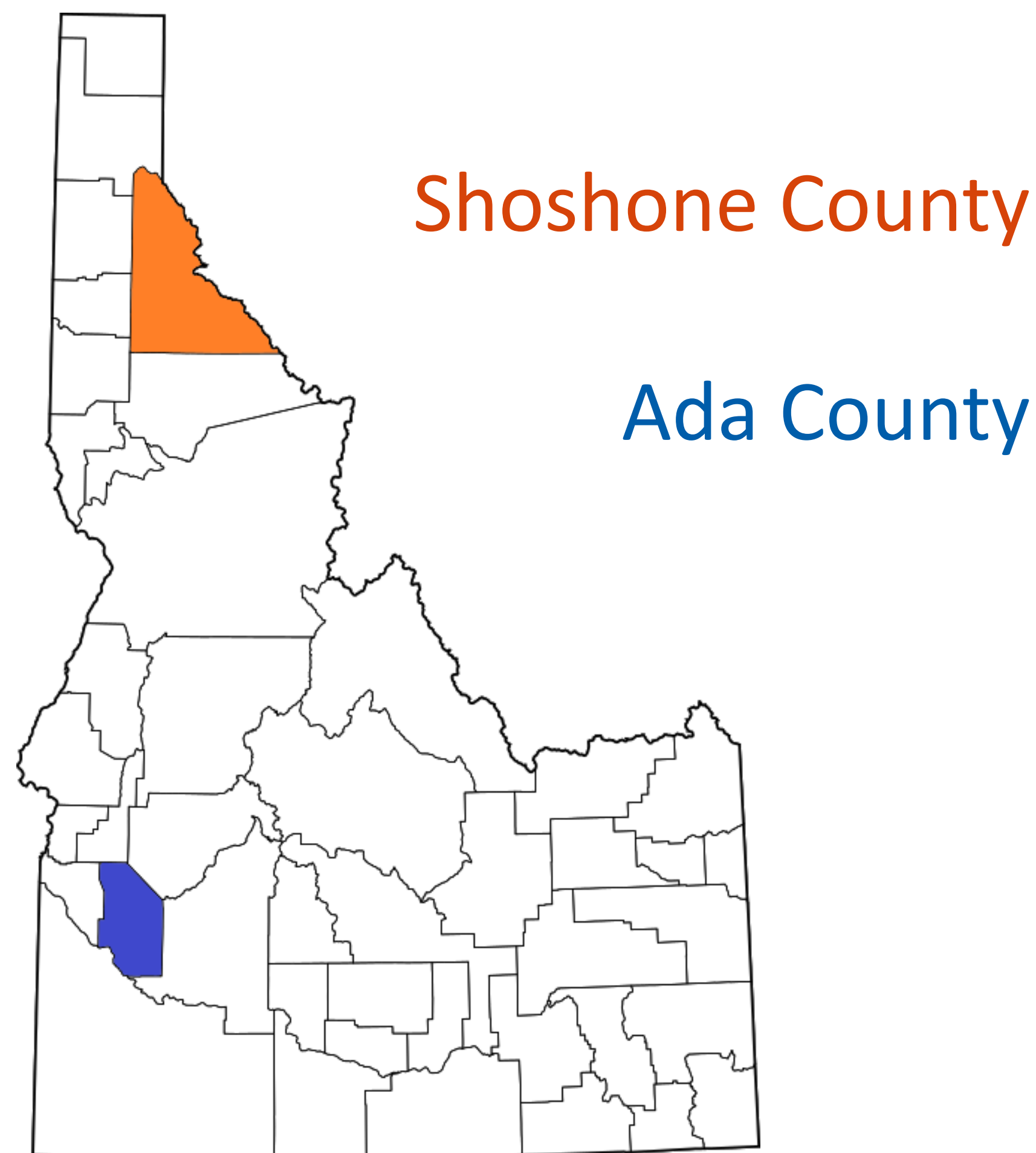
Climate Change Discourse in Ada and Shoshone Counties: A Comparative Study

Mallory Payne and Arie Weidemaier



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

An Investigation of Urban and Rural Climate Change Discourses



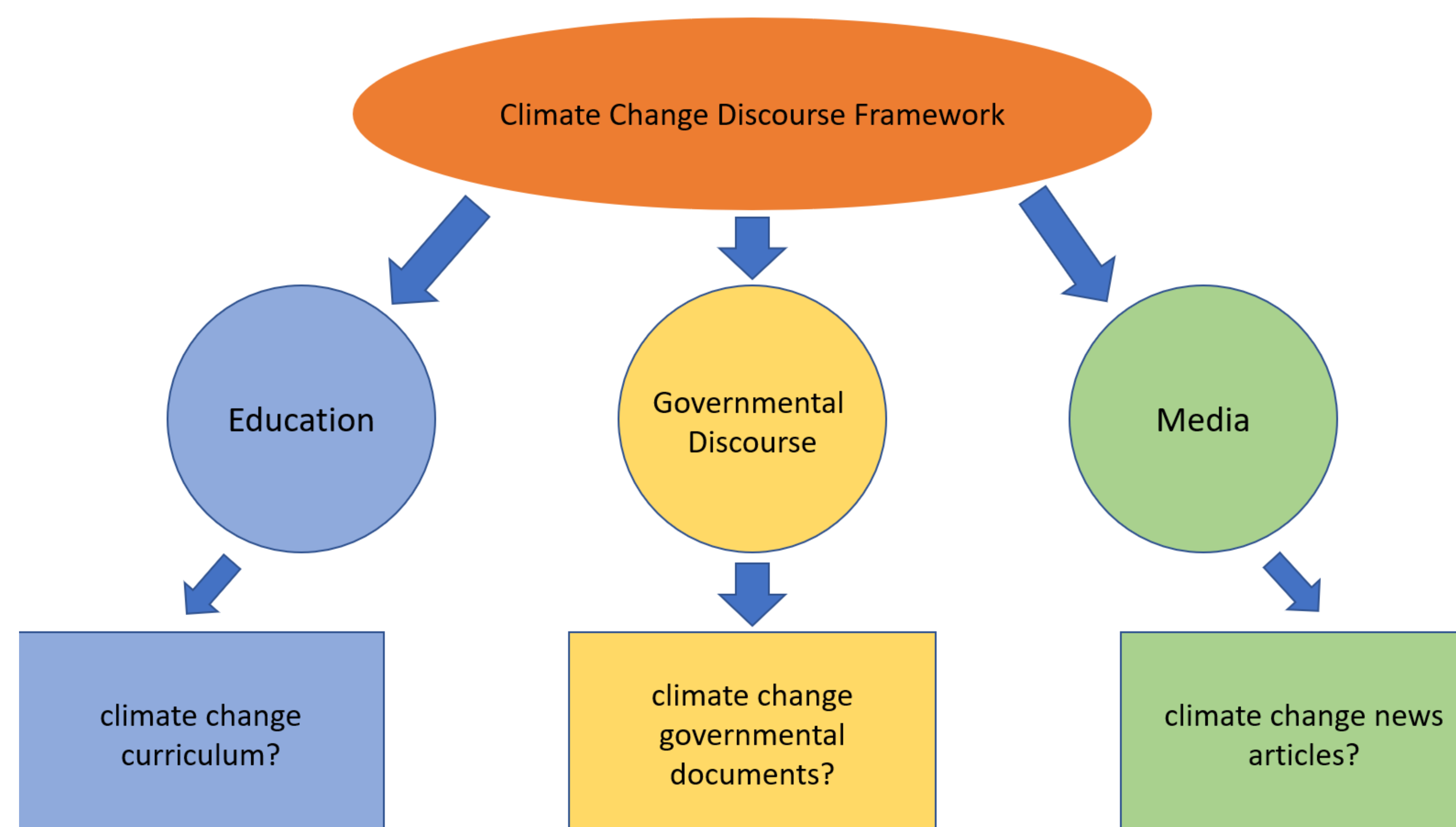
Shoshone County

Ada County

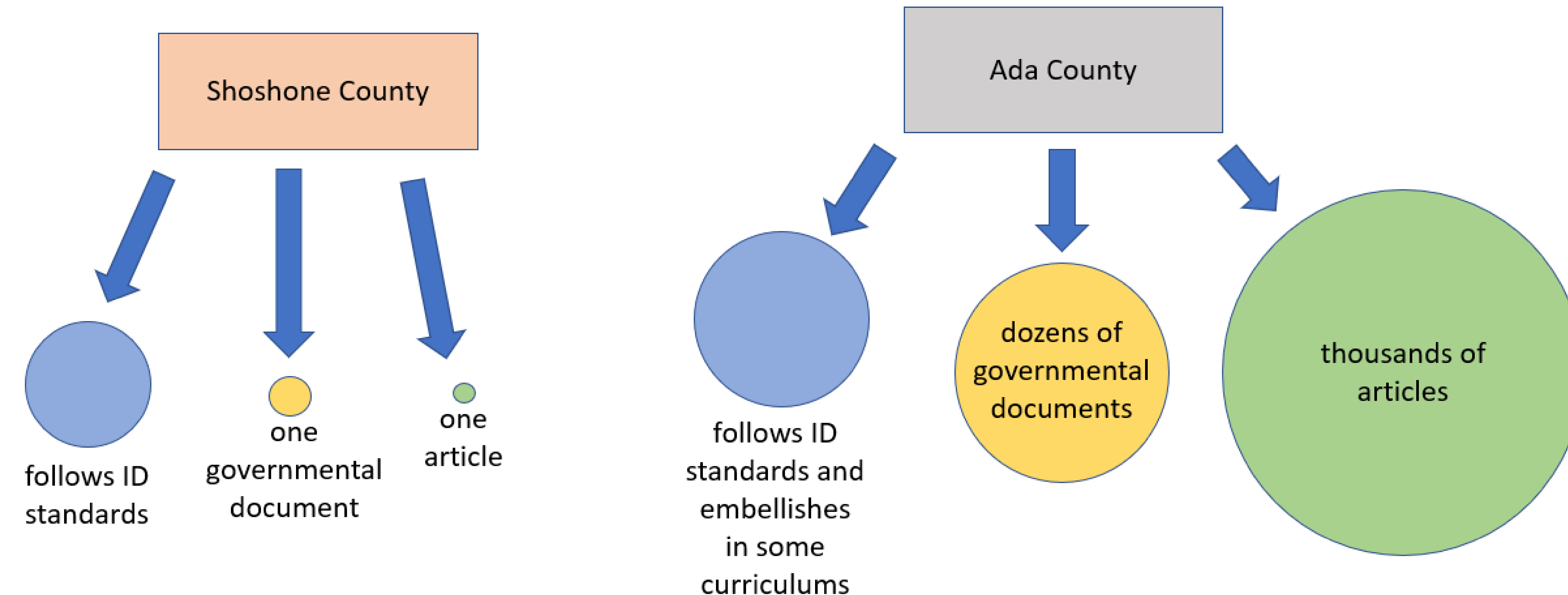
INTRODUCTION

This study is exploratory research that utilizes accessible data and provides a possible framework for future research. The importance of this research is identifying how specific counties in Idaho have their present climate change discourse, based on the three variables. The objective in this study is to assess how present climate change discourse is between urban and rural areas. Shoshone County was chosen to represent the urban area while Ada County represents the rural area. The map to the left shows these counties and the one below shows areas of urban clusters and metro areas. To analyze the climate change discourses between the two counties, a framework was created, which can be viewed below.

METHODS

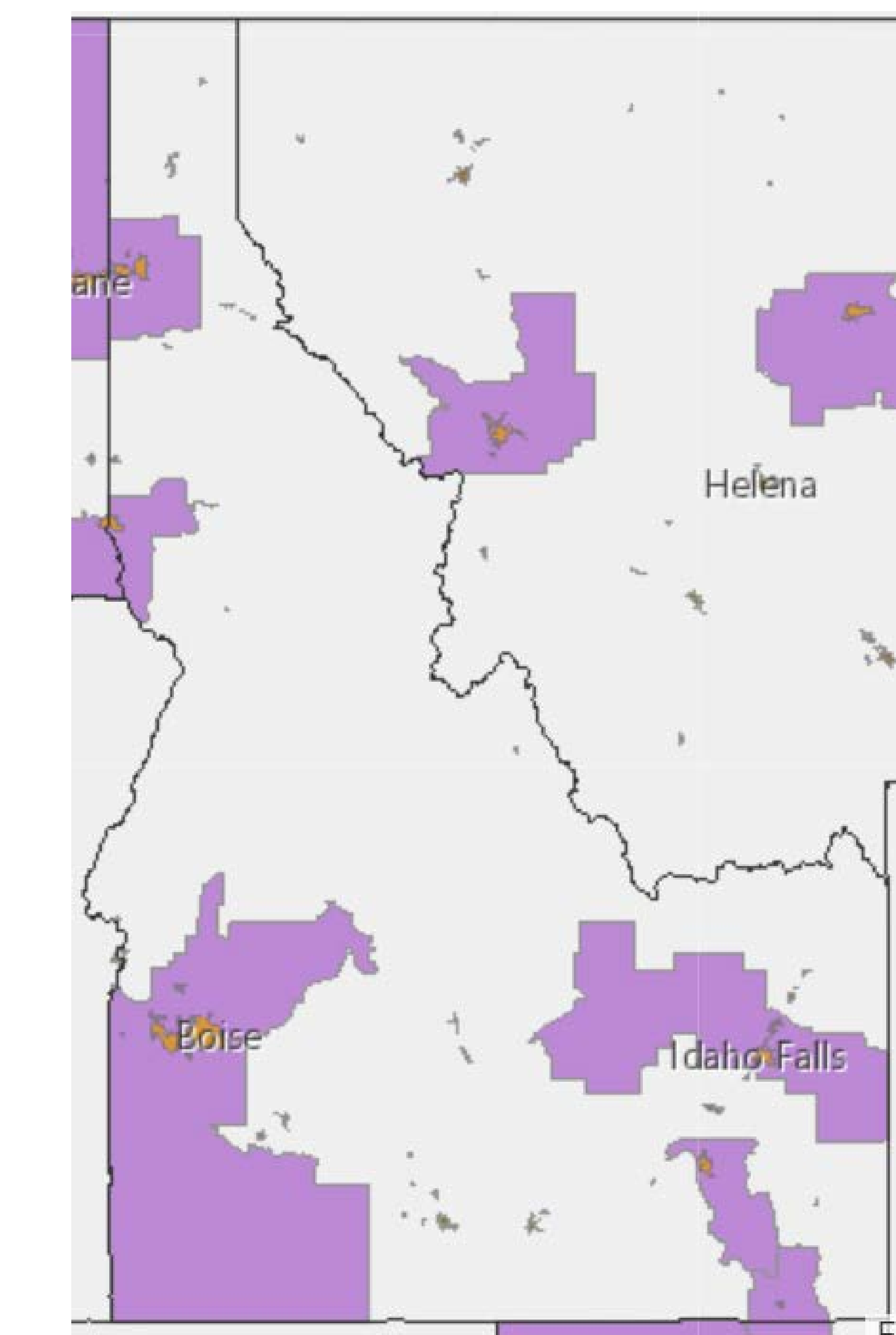


RESULTS



DISCUSSION

Looking at the differences of climate change discourse between the two counties shows that overall, Ada County demonstrates a much larger and developed climate change discourse compared to Shoshone County. Based on our framework and findings, urban areas have more climate change discourse, although it is difficult to fully quantify discourse because this research was so exploratory in nature. This implies that the environment of urban areas fosters and more developed climate change discourse. This research has been somewhat limited and the methods used were exploratory in nature. Research was composed of information that could be found on the internet. Additional information is needed to make concrete conclusions about how urban and rural factors influence this discourse. Further research into the context of news articles, analysis of social media, and studying the political climate will give a much more thorough insight into the discourse. The findings were able to successfully show that climate change discourse in an urban county in Idaho, compared to a rural county, was more present.



Courtesy of <https://gis-portal.data.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7a41374f6b03456e9d138cb014711e01>