

# Yakima County, Washington

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan APPENDICES



*Yakima County Fire District #5*

Approved by:

Yakima County Board of Commissioners

July 2015

## Acknowledgements

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan represents the efforts and cooperation of a number of organizations and agencies working together to improve preparedness for wildfire events while reducing factors of risk.



To obtain copies of this plan contact:

**Yakima County Fire Marshal's Office**  
 128 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Yakima, Washington 98901  
 509-574-2300

Or by accessing the Washington Department of Natural Resources webpage at:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/PreventionInformation/Pages/rp\\_burn\\_countymitigation\\_plans.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/PreventionInformation/Pages/rp_burn_countymitigation_plans.aspx)

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## Appendix 1

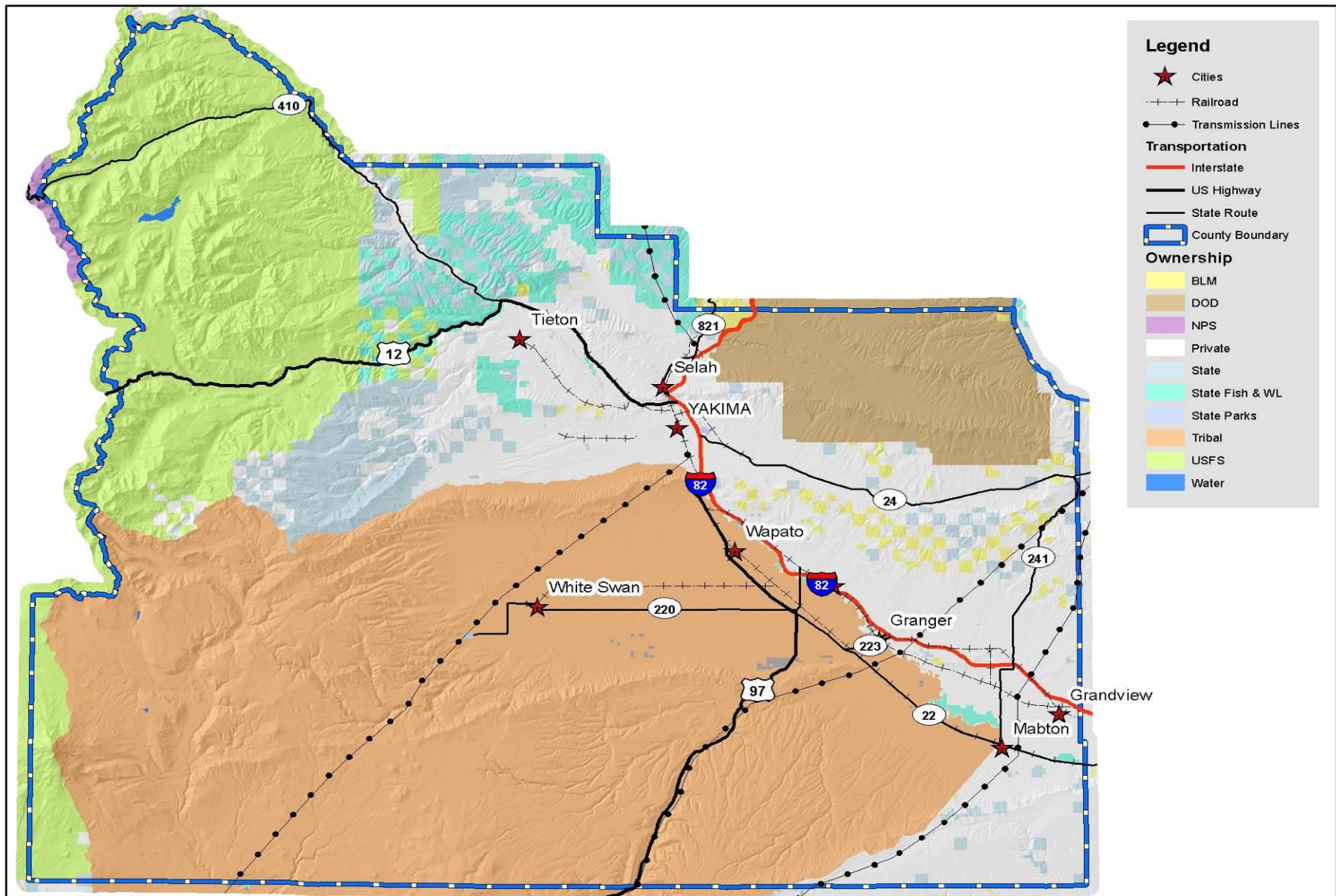
### Mapping Products

#### Northwest Management, Inc.

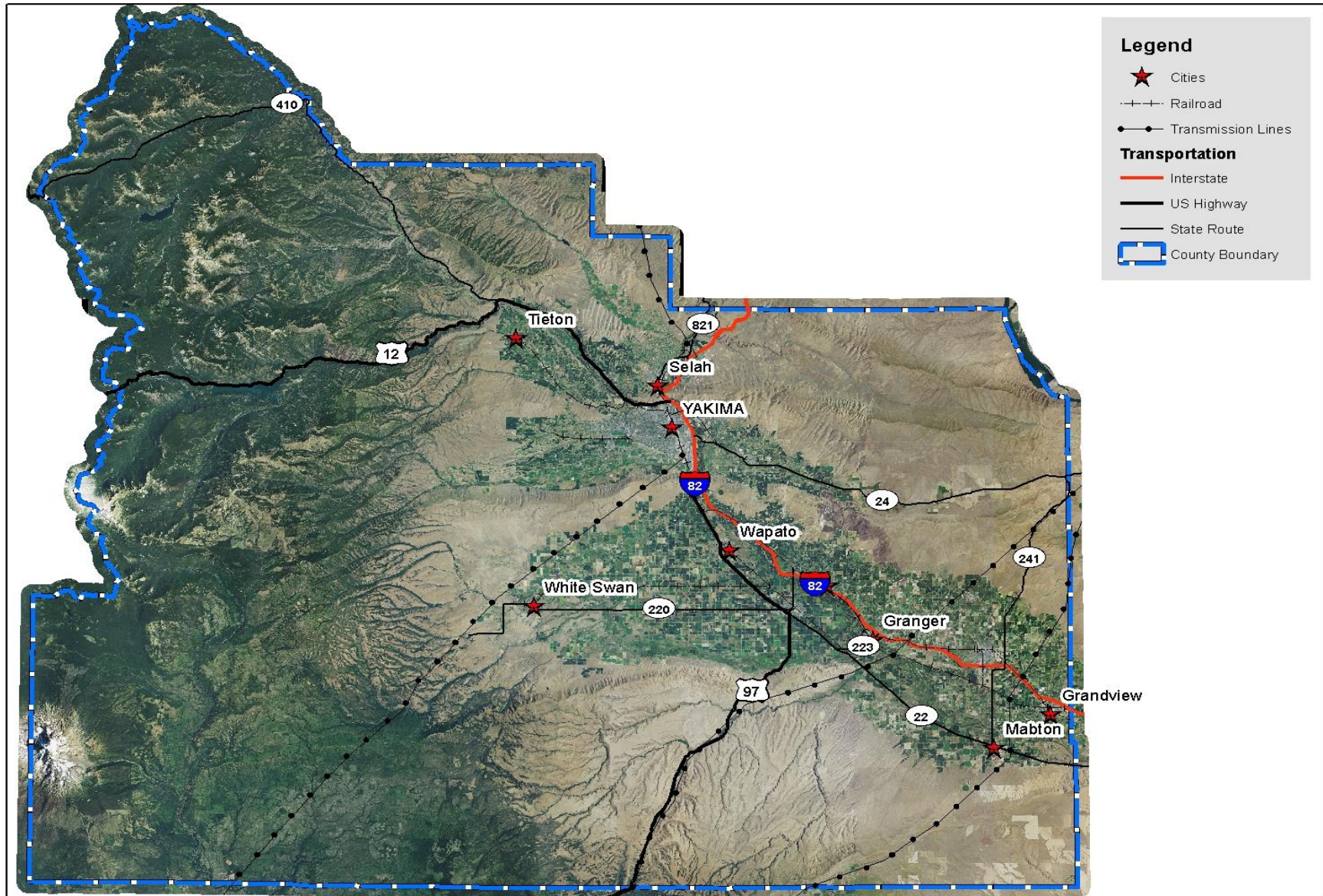
233 East Palouse River Dr.  
P.O. Box 9748  
Moscow, ID 83843  
208-883-4488  
[www.Consulting-Foresters.com](http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com)

The information on the following maps was derived from digital databases held by Northwest Management, Inc. Care was taken in the creation of these maps, but all maps are provided “as is” with no warranty or guarantees. Northwest Management, Inc. cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy, and therefore, there are no warranties accompanying this product. Although information from land surveys may have been used in the creation of this product, in no way does this product represent or constitute a land survey. Users are cautioned to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

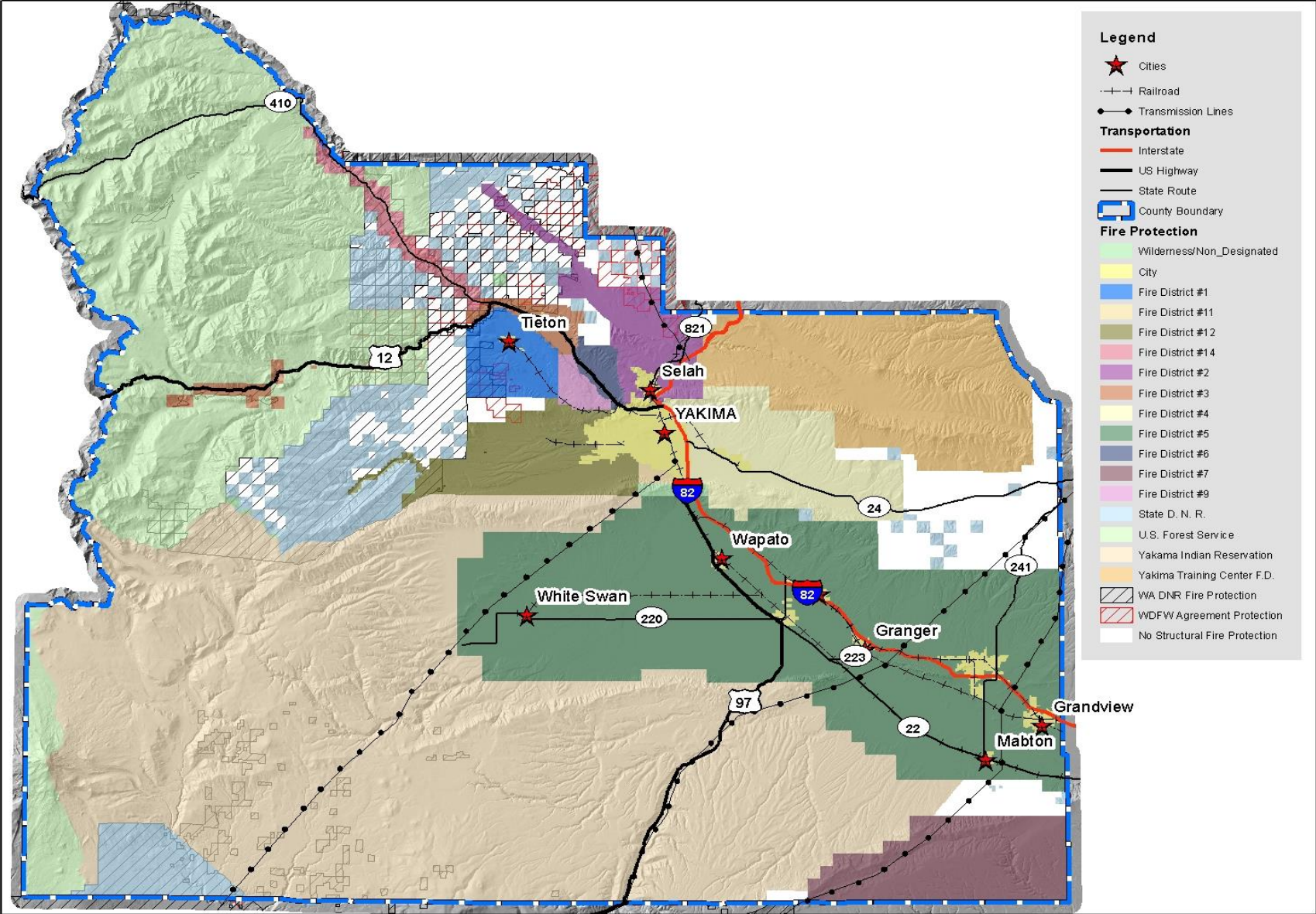
# Land Ownership Map



# Aerial Imagery

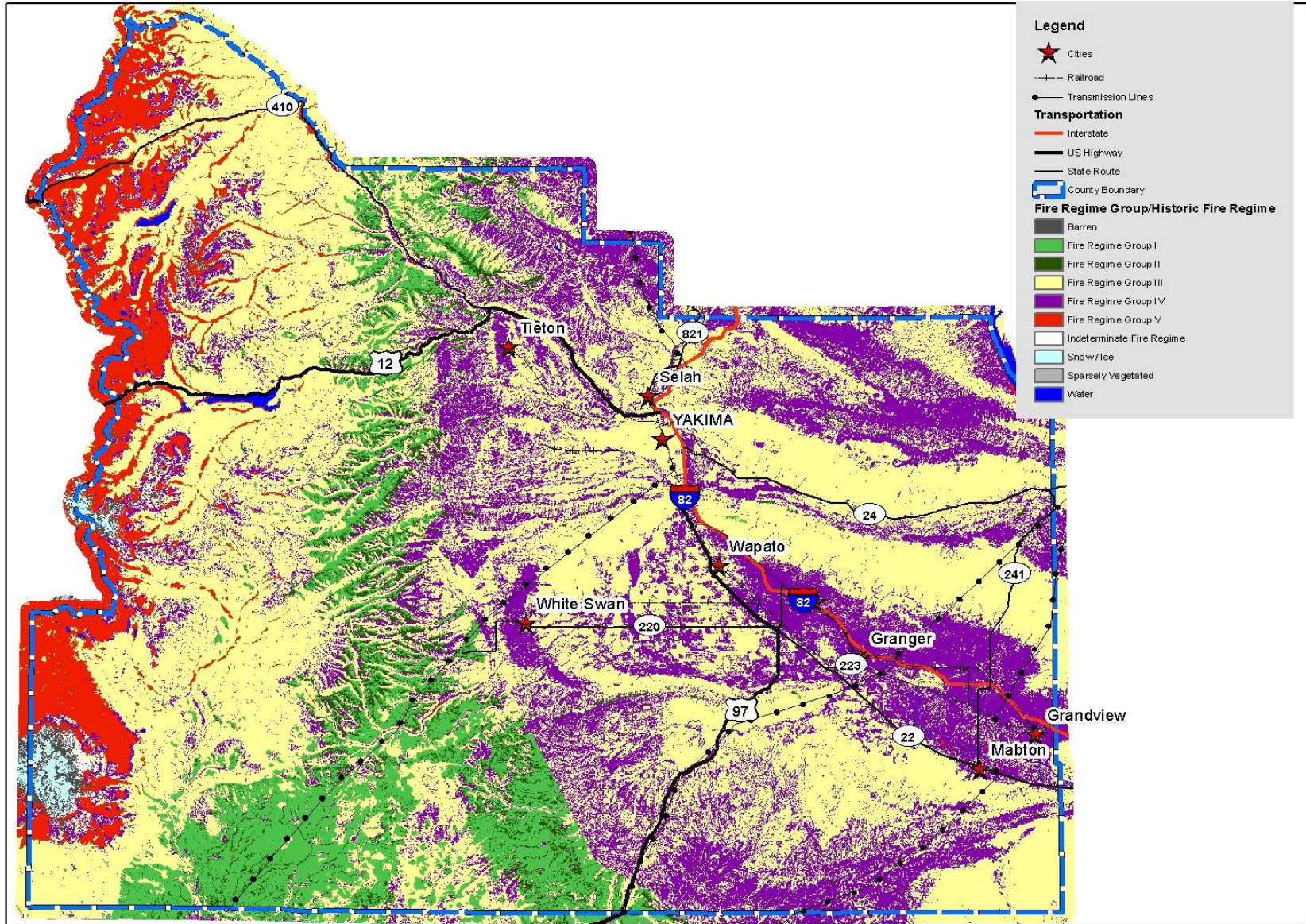


# Fire Protection Boundary Map

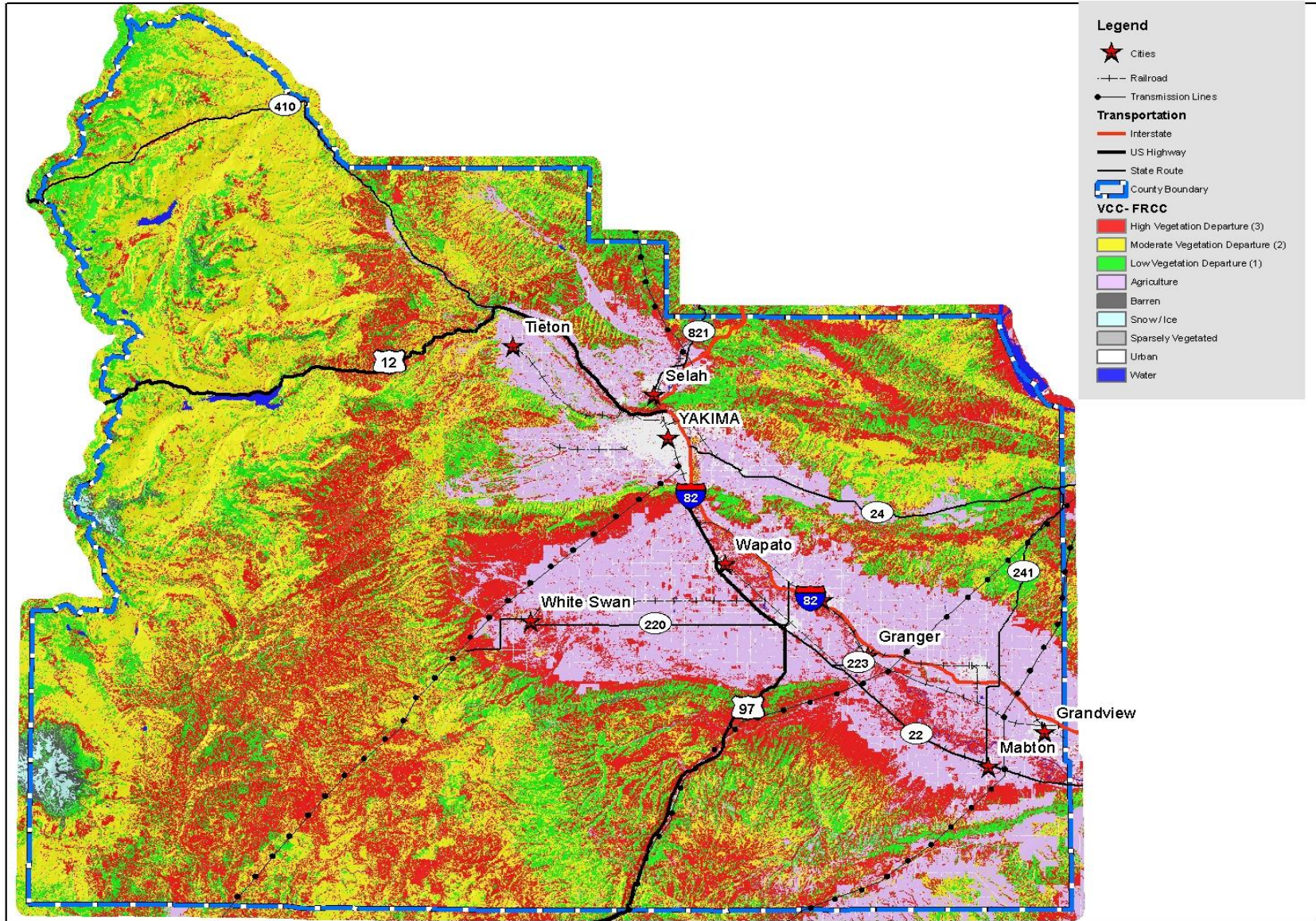




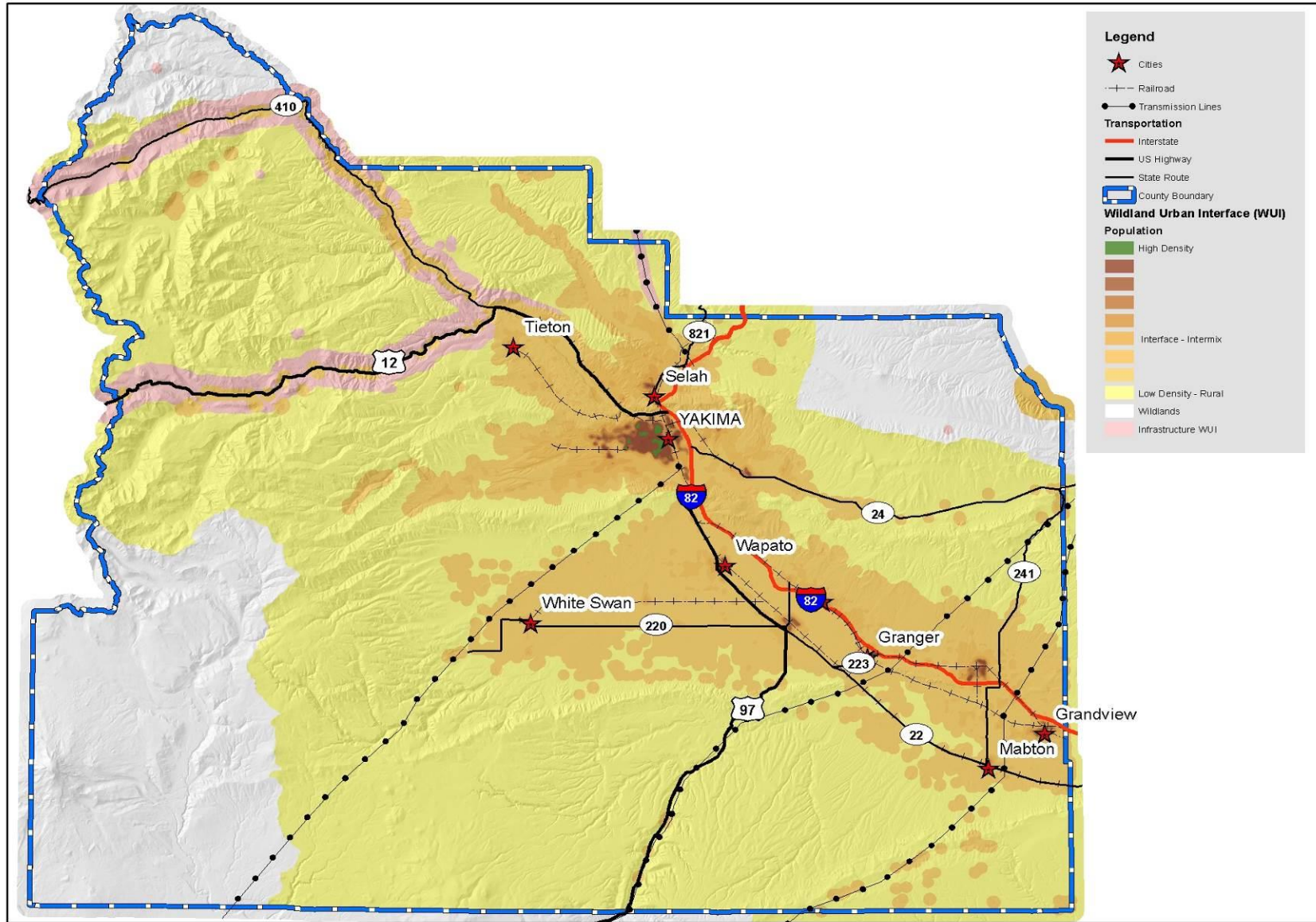
# Historic Fire Regime Map



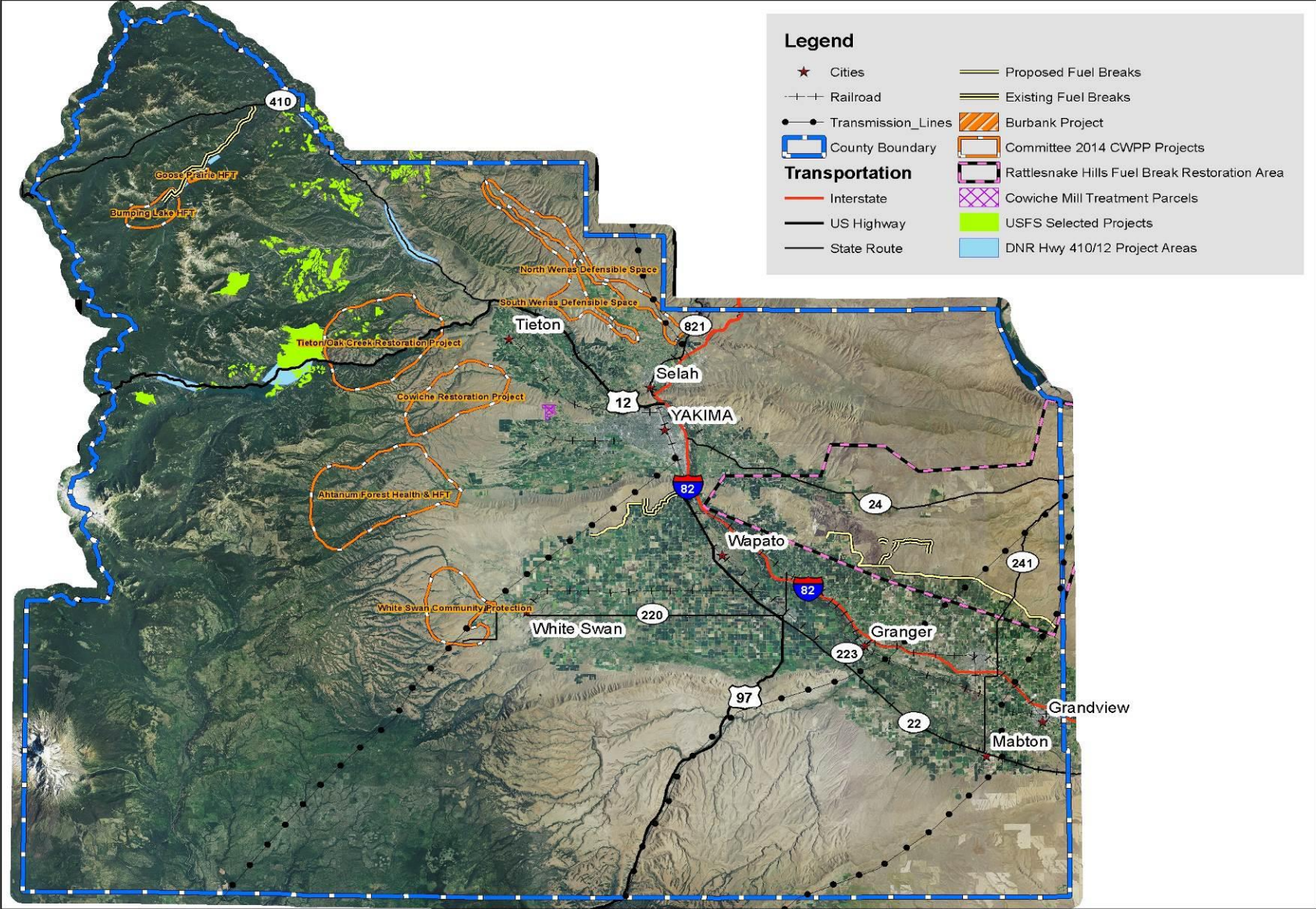
# Vegetation Condition Class Map



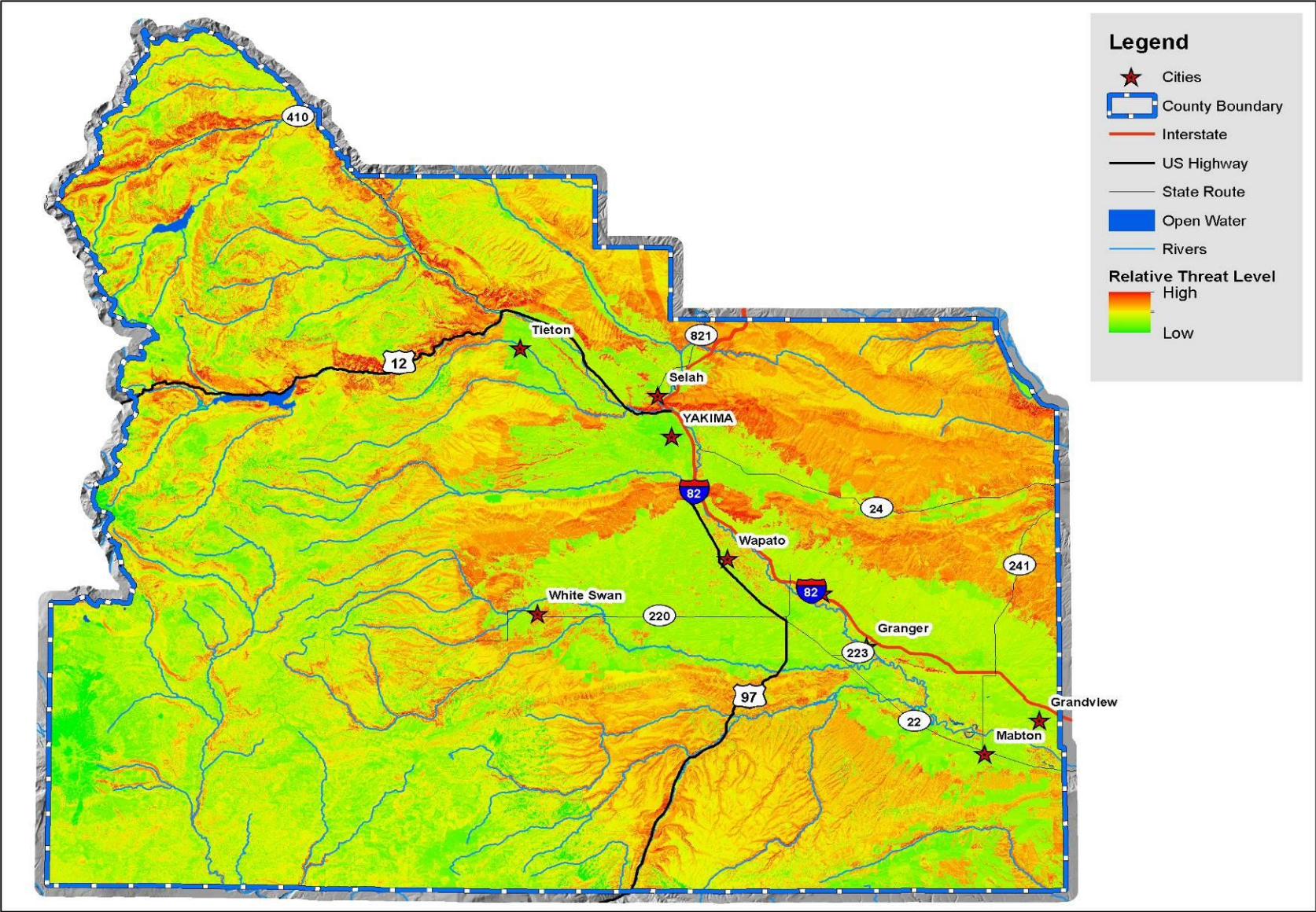
# Wildland Urban Interface Map



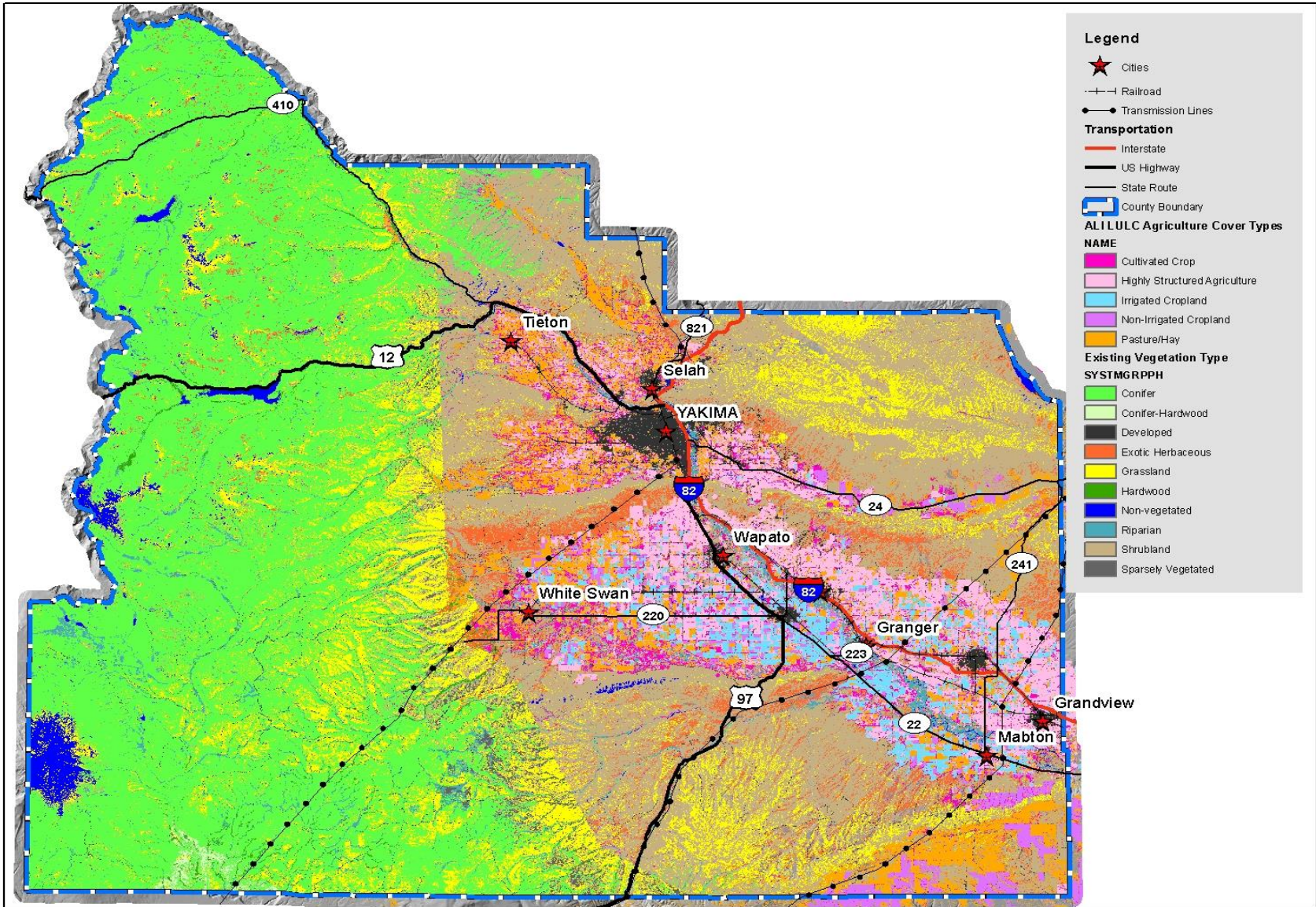
# Proposed Treatment Area Map



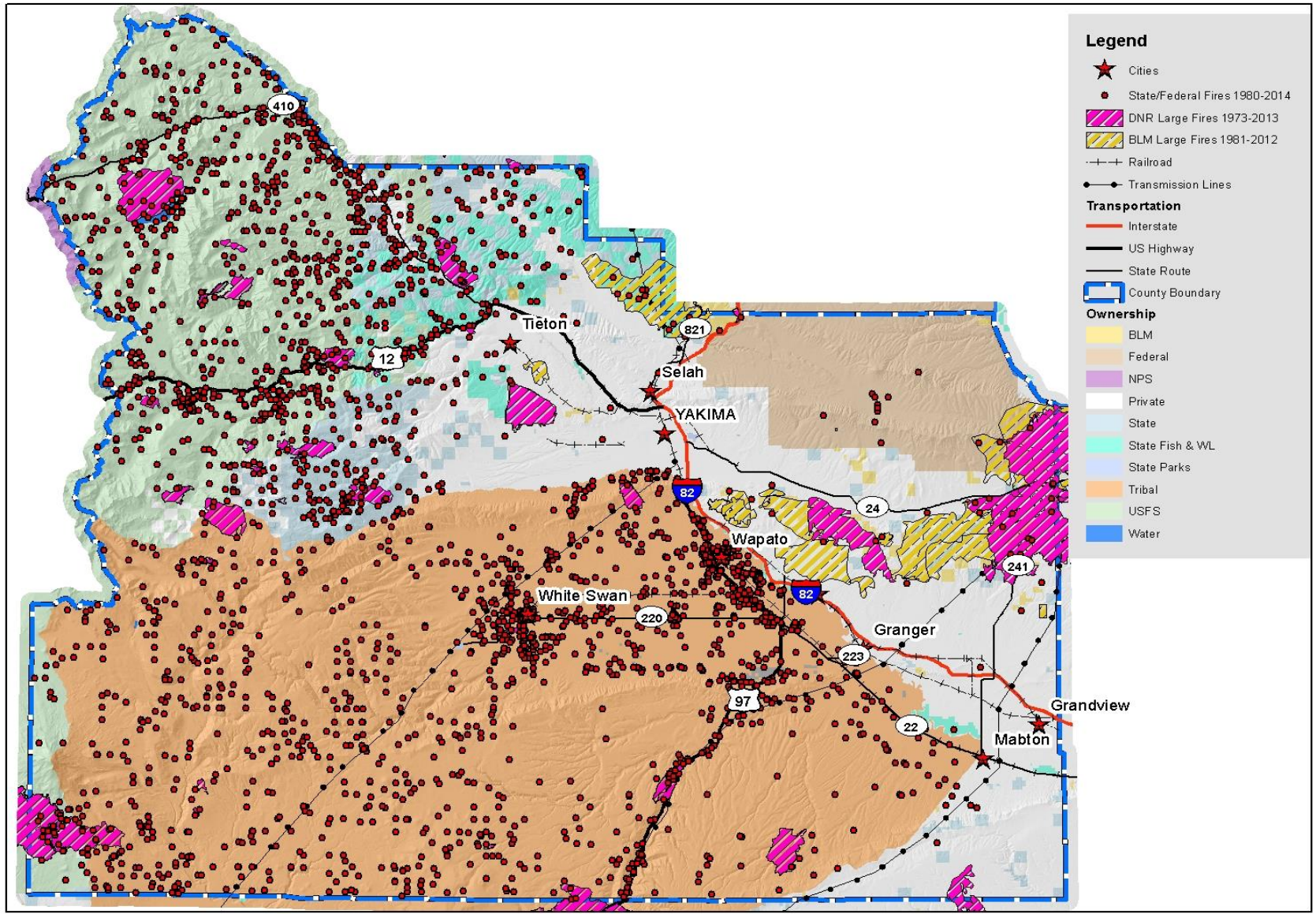
Relative Threat Level Map



# Current Vegetation Map



# Fire Ignitions and Large Fire Extent Map



## Appendix 2

### Documenting the Planning Process

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is necessary to meet FEMA's DMA 2000 requirements (44CFR§201.4(c)(1) and §201.6(c)(1)). This appendix includes the minutes taken at planning committee meetings, a record of published articles regarding the CWPP, and the presentation given at local public meetings.

### Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

The following are the notes from each of the planning committee meeting. This record was not formally reviewed or approved by the steering committee, but is provided here to document the level of detail involved in the development of the plan and the varied participation by each of the committee members at the in-person meetings.

#### February 27th, 2014

**Introduction-** Reese Lolley provided a short background on the National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management and the Fire Adapted Communities Concept and welcomed new participants to the group.

The FLAME ACT was written in response to soaring fire suppression costs. It creates a separate fund for fighting catastrophic wildfires while at the same time requiring USDA and USDI to develop a cohesive strategy for addressing wildfire. The strategy has three components:

- a. *Restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes-* A recognition of the need to restore ecosystem health and to consider this issue at regional and sub-regional scales. Goal: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
- b. *Creating fire adapted communities-* Fire managers need options and opportunities for engaging communities and working with them to reduce the wildfire threat. Goal: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- c. *Responding to wildfires-* A need to recognize differing missions of local, state, tribal, and federal agencies and commit to collaborate moving forward. Goal: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

The vision for fire management is one in which all *Work together to prepare landscapes for natural fire occurrence, prepare communities to face wildfire risks, and coordinate effective wildland fire response.*

Individuals introduced themselves and described their role in a Fire Adapted Community- There was discussion of what roles might be missing. The Business community was one of note. The Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition in Leavenworth can provides some examples of how and why they have engaged with businesses. Businesses are affected by smoke, reduced tourism, closed roads, etc. Can also be a source of funding for education.

Reese provided an overview of the day- a. Overview and purpose of the Coalition, b. revision of the Yakima County CWPP and c. Planning for immediate outreach opportunities.

#### **Discussion around Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition-**

The group discussed what was driving the fire adapted communities concept from a policy, funding, and practical standpoint. Fire Adapted Communities is a buzz word, but it's main intent is to encourage us to



be cognizant of our different roles in living with wildfire. It is not really a program, but a framework that has been promoted from the national level via a USFS and TNC partnership.

Locally, There has been a need for more cohesion and continuity for how different roles work together to address wildfire in the Yakima Valley. The coalition came together over the last few months as a result of the Wenatchee Fire Adapted Communities conference, organized by S. Central WA RC&D. Several attendees of that event (including Reese, Paul, Julie, Jakki, Ron, Karen and Richard) followed up to hold a workshop in Yakima. Reese had a small amount of seed money from the TNC Fire Learning Network (FLN). These events brought people together to see challenges and opportunities through working together on wildfire issues.

At present the Coalition has no structure or bylaws. The group is going to start to meet once a month and share what's going on, and work on immediate joint projects.- CWPP Revision, Outreach projects.

Spokane BLM had already obligated \$25,000 to conduct a risk assessment for Yakima County to help the BLM prioritize hazardous fuels reduction projects. 5 other counties have worked similarly with the BLM. If groups in Yakima County could come up with \$7000 more, the risk assessment could be conducted along with a revision of the Countywide CWPP, now 5 years old, and never formally signed by the state forester. Spokane BLM also has community assistance funds to award to help fund projects identified in the revised CWPP.

The group stressed that FAC is a concept, not a program. It does not replace Firewise, in fact it encourages and supports Firewise programs.

The group stressed that BLM will not be in control of the process. NW Management will lead the CWPP revision with direction from the Coalition and the BLM will just be another one of the players at the Table. BLM is small in WA, and best they can do is show up and empower citizens. BLM wants to help make the plan great.

Chuck-DNR provided the original \$25,000 to create the first Yakima County CWPP. Much time has passed. It has not been reviewed annually. DNR has a vested interest in seeing the County CWPP updated and used to accomplish projects.

Jakki- It is important to recognize all that has been accomplished. This process also gives us an opportunity to show what has been done.

### **Yakima County Community Wildfire Protection Planning**

In 2008-2009 BLM identified the need to help non-timber counties obtain a CWPP, so they put out an RFQ that was awarded to Northwest Management Inc. to do Risk Assessments for 6 Counties in E. WA. Richard read requirements from the contract (this is public information). **Counties can elect to convert these assessments to CWPP status by contributing additional funds to demonstrate ownership in the plan.** A countywide plan is a condition for future BLM community assistance dollars.

Plans have several elements. Wildland fire history, Wildfire characteristic modeling, Field surveys to verify the model is correct, Historic fire regime condition class characterization, and revision of the wildland urban interface map and fire behavior predictions. Categorization of high hazard areas will be used to create a relative threat level map. This is relative to the County and how participants see it to be.

Three project areas will be mapped more specifically and project concepts developed. The plan can have sub areas of analysis since Yakima County is so large and community specific CWPP's already exist. The funds provided locally allow for the process of additional public meetings, prioritization of projects, and incorporation of existing CWPP information into one plan in a way that meets the expectations of the plan participants. It will be up to the coalition and the groups that developed the CWPP's to determine how this information gets integrated. Richard recommends one comprehensive county plan so countywide

issues can be discussed, and then sub areas and smaller firewise communities with detailed project implementation recommendations.

The group urged the need to speak at a level that can be understood by lay persons outside the agencies as we proceed, and to work to address the real barriers faced locally in agency/landowner collaborations.

**Tera King provided background on NW Management-** Operating since 1984, Offices in Moscow, ID, Deer Park, WA, Helena, MT, 32 consulting foresters and other ranges of natural resource expertise. Promotes a balanced approach to Natural Resources Management.

Tera described the risk assessment and CWPP update process- She hopes to use the momentum of this group to get things going. The plan will also be in a format that can be incorporated into County Hazard Planning, Tribal Hazard Planning. NW Mgt. will use similar modeling tools to the original County plan. Next month we will review various models and current information. What elements are helpful? Accurate? What needs Updating?

Process- create a committee, begin creating maps, identify hazard areas, develop models, do technical analysis, perform field assessments, conduct public meetings, develop project areas, prioritize actions and projects, and allow for public involvement.

The group asked how the WUI would be mapped and what the implications are. There is a standard for mapping WUI but it is not a required standard, it can also be massaged to add additional criteria. Many counties add in critical infrastructure, consider housing densities. Yakima County has WUI Code requirements. This model should be considered carefully if it is to be used for this purpose.

The group stressed the need for ground truthing and making sure that the mapping makes sense on the ground.

The group discussed public involvement in the process. How do we get the word out and encourage people to get involved early on, so they aren't playing catchup? Generally there are provisions for three public meetings. What should this look like? Website through the RC&D to get the word out? This is important. The public has key information we may be overlooking.

The group discussed the requirements and legitimacy of the plan. It must be signed by the County Commissioners, the State Forester, and participating Fire Protection Districts. It's important to engage the Fire Districts early on. Allen brings information back to the Fire Chief's Association, but he won't be signing off for the other Fire Districts. It will be up to them if they want to rely on Allen to provide the input they feel is important. People don't have to be present to participate though. BLM requires that their contract make sure that DNR, USFS, Fire Protection Districts, County, are at the table. The process is open and anyone can participate on the steering committee.

The group discussed implications of the plan. It can be used to obtain funding to complete projects that are high priority in the plan. It doesn't have teeth to make different partners implement the plan, but it creates the power of collaboration. It was stressed that many at the table have shared objectives around the issue of fire.

**Next meeting is slated for March 27, at 10AM at the Office of Emergency Management.** 2403 South 18th St. Suite 200, Union Gap, WA 98903 - Phone: (509) 574-1900. The group will launch into discussion of the risk assessment. What models and criteria? Where are high risk areas? What data layers will we use?

### **Community Outreach Projects**

**Home and Garden Show-** Gary Peters, Andy Babcock, and various fire districts through the Yakima Valley Fire Protective Association have reserved 4 tables at the Home and Garden Show March 14-16<sup>th</sup> at the Sun Dome. The theme will be the national campaign, "Fire is Everyone's Fight", which focuses on residential fire safety. There will also be space for Fire Adapted Communities and Firewise materials.

Smokey and Sparkey will be there. Tony will bring his Dalmatian. The educational house will come from Sunnyside. This is an opportunity to reach close to 2000 people. This collaboration will carry into booths at the Central Washington State Fair. Hopefully we can attract more news media. The Yakima Herald is good but won't reach all audiences. TV and radio are also good.

**Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show-** Richard showed images of large displays being developed for this expo in Spokane. Anyone that wants to volunteer for a 4 hour shift at this show handing out info can get a free ticket to the show. They will have campfire education for kids and hand out Smokey bear campfire buckets. Goal is to connect the public with on the ground professionals to discuss.

**Community Wildfire Preparedness Day May 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Pam Brown is leading efforts to hold some kind of event in Jim Sprick Park in the Nile Valley. More details to come. Other efforts haven't been finalized yet. Allen suspects they will do something that day in the Lower Valley if they can get their volunteers to help out. They will partner with Yakama Nation, possibly some kind of door hangar. The group discussed various methods for getting the word out and various messages that are important to convey. **All felt it would be very useful to have a website or some form of central clearing house where locally adapted resources could be accessed for use throughout the County and people could see what others are doing or have planned.**

**Spokane District BLM** has funding for educational materials- They can put amounts under \$3000 toward banners, billboards, etc for efforts that are coordinated across the county. Allen expressed an interest in this. He has 9 small billboards that could be covered with a banner. BLM is also developing a 3D model educational house to demonstrate defensible space concepts. There is also a website where fire photos can be accessed for use. [http://www.nifc.gov/wildlandPhotos/wildlandPhotos\\_main.html](http://www.nifc.gov/wildlandPhotos/wildlandPhotos_main.html)

There was limited time but discussion revolved around various messages that the public needs to hear, the need for preparedness, a realistic expectation of what to expect from fire personnel in the event of a fire depending on their level of preparedness, fire is everyone's fight, good fire bad fire.....so much to convey but a need not to confuse.

Allen stressed the importance of working together to send one strong message to the public and that the public gathers their own understanding, attaching meaning to various symbols such as Smokey and Sparkey.

For Fire Adapted Communities, important to know there are lots of professional developed campaign materials already in place. This is true for fire is everyone's fight, firewise, ready set go, and fire adapted communities. Just need to work together to adapt these to our place and situation and then share those experiences and resources amongst ourselves going forward.

## **March 27th, 2014**

Reese gave an update on the Yakima County Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. The group is still sorting out how the coalition will work. Hoping the group will facilitate information sharing for FAC efforts in Yakima County.

Updates on plans for Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, May 3<sup>rd</sup>- Pam Brown has secured Jim Sprick Community Park for the day and is in contact with the DNR and the Naches and Nile fire districts. Int'l Association of Fire Chiefs has sent copies of materials for the Ready Set Go Program to hand out to the public. Nile women's club will provide bake sale and water for sale. Nile benefit association administers the park, suggest they provide hot dog soda and chips? We'll see. Demonstrations and outreach to families and children. Educational. Forest Service brush truck visit hopefully. Chuck Wytko see if DNR brush truck will come. Fire truck and equipment to make explanation. Sample homeowner assessment is already in the ready set go pamphlet.

Reese attended the Big Horn outdoor show, fire prevention booth and fire adapted communities display. Richard brought the booth and display. Items that could be useful around outreach. Brochures, model, prevention popups. Its available for use, but need an agency to safeguard and be responsible. Reese, easy to have discussions with a lot of different people with different backgrounds. Discussed with kids how to make a fire, permissions needed , etc. engage parents. Packet of materials in the bag that went home with people.

Housekeeping. Developed a gmail account for the coalition. Communicate through that email list. Reese, Karen, and Tera are managing this. But available for access to others. Discussion with Karen and Pam. Try to be more inclusive. Need to work through managing the list and who is on there. Use best judgement on use of the list.

Homeshow, Gary, Jakki, Allen visited the show. Smokey and Sparkey were there. Impressed with interaction with people there. Firesafe community and defensible space....Paul Jenkins, Freddy the fire truck, Dotty and Amber from Sunnyside- dalmations. Great interaction with kids.. Booth was through Yakima fire and injury prevention association. There was a wildland piece to the program too.

Back to the Countywide CWPP. Reese knows working in specific places with specific people is important. Different issues, different people engaged across the County. Important to keep that level of identity, be able to focus in that specific area. Important component engaging people in place. Risk assessment component. How do the county plan in a way that develops community areas. Are there other areas that need a focus. Common community and relative to types of fire issues.

Questions concerns input on today's agenda. Tera- want to look at tools available to us, familiarity with these. What needs to go down to community area or sub level. Want to start with item number 3. General mapping products. Looking from a County perspective and then see what jumps out. Then go through threat level mapping.

Jakki- risk assessment vs. going into the CWPP. How separate but intended to be integrated. Baseline details technical interpretation. Projects. CWPP is the community interest piece. Risk assessment is the background information needed to go into it. A lot integrated, but sort of separated.

Karen- is it fair to say we are still free to develop our own CWPP with the risk assessment information? Reese, but we don't have a signed CWPP for across the County. So other parts of the County have an opportunity to engage in that process. Process that can lift all boats? Engaging multiple communities across the county. Historically lots of CWPP's have been a mechanism to get funding. But could CWPP be a way to engage thinking about fire adapted communities? How to empower people in places. More engaged, more likely things that will get done. Ideally this is a mechanism to use the CWPP in a little different way.

Vaiden- GIS, forester, firefighter. Doing lots of data management and mapping. Has some of base draft products using tools that have been used by other counties. Show us draft of what this might look like. Start tweaking to make it work better. Need feedback on this.

Process of identification of the WUI. Process of relative threat map creation. Does this guide us and meet the needs of the group? Do field assessments based on these maps. It can always be adjusted. Don't be afraid to speak up.

Joe-how have you engaged elsewhere? Chelan, Garfield, Columbia, Asotin. Worked well – interface between county processes. Counties do have specific needs. Depends on group personality. If group doesn't feed information to Vaiden, he will go down the path of least resistance. One neat exercise was NW maps on the wall- group draw polygons where you think things should be changed. Asotin drew lots of polygons.

Tera- importance of the designation. Currently the entire planning area has been identified as WUI. This is possible, but really important to think through that process. Also has ramifications for other pieces of legislation:

Original legislation says agencies are required to spend a certain amount of funding in the WUI as designated in a CWPP. 2) new farm bill refers to the WUI designation in prioritizing insect and disease treatment areas for federal agencies. In Idaho, WUI designation for inventory of roadless areas, implications on forest issues. Important that we think through this. One piece of the pie.

Map of the county and estimate of population. 911 address points produced by the County. Zoom in on parcels. Section by section putting dots on every house that is out there. Red points are new added structures. 80,000 address points, added an additional 1200 points. Can this group identify more residences where people live? Population density model on this. Areas of hot spots where higher population is located. Interface, intermix outlying areas. White area are the wildlands. Nobody out there. Up to this committee to decide how the WUI is defined. Focuses in on areas where projects can be put. Areas where funding could go or be prioritized. Earmarked funding types. Flavors of money that require this. Need definition of the WUI. Small enough to focus on what you want to treat but big enough to be flexible. Buffer between agency management stuff- big enough that it makes sense.

Richard. Lots of counties make decision to add an extra layer. Low and high density WUI. Fire rate of spread. Low density WUI spreads further- bigger area. Higher elevation- low density starts tapering off. Take into account recreation- still classify as low density WUI still interaction between recreation and wildlands. Add different shade to show low and high density. Flexibility to be able to do something on a ridgetop and create WUI.

Have also added major highways- infrastructure WUI. In heavy fuels area. Funding for fuels treatment. (grouse protection funding?) Tera- looking through previous plans- riparian corridors have carried fire as well. Need cleaning and treating? WUI if not defined. 1.5 miles from any residence with basic infrastructure. HFRA federal register identified communities at risk.

Reese- need to clarify. Funding attached. Funding comes down in different ways, different mechanisms. Joe- criteria from USFS funding- doesn't have to be forest, but thinning pruning, slash disposal and brush control. Richard may have different criteria in his funding that are more non-forested areas. Differentiation on how that money flows to different places.

IWUIC- WUI for the purposes of enforcing building code will be defined in a different process. Must do countywide. Independent process for this purpose. Advantage is that even in no man's land, still get to regulate these people. Gives ability to protect these areas. Code assessment criteria for the built environment. WUI map has had some bearing on relative threat level.

Would this meet the purposes as explained so far. Reese- zone ridge to ridge. Consider this.

Makes sense to include infrastructure WUI make sense. Road buffer of 1.5 miles at present. Use topography and go along the ridgeline that borders hwy 410/12 corridor. Should be flexible with the topography.

These maps based on real threats to existing structures. What about areas slated for development? Areas that are platted?

Allen- expand low density risk areas to reflect the speed of fires. Extend the gap out between Hwy 24 and hwy 241. Also south of Ahtanum ridge. We get a fire in these areas and we are off to the races. It can be lower risk, but should be included. Also true in the west valley area. Out a couple miles out. 3 mile buffer on county borders. Also in District 7 area where there are scattered dots. Extend the risk further out.

Allen- where are the houses are isn't where risk is, just across the line is a big risk. Need extension out in these areas. Allen looking for- give us tools to help convince people- support Jakki's efforts, but also

cities look at their projects. In some of cities, there are fuel issues there too. WUI environment- model could be used in the communities. Different personality, identity and needs. Include all pieces. Use as a tool. This is good. Allen- power poles and overhead powerlines.

Yakama Wildfire prevention plan. White area bottom left is timber. Campground cabin place. Water, wells, generator and kids up there all summer long. Signal peak and status lookout repeaters. Keep adding until we know what all needs to be considered.

Relative threat level map- high risk area map of the county. More input on how to do this. NW Management needs our help to get a good feel for fuel types and risk levels. Come up with final map product.

Fire behavior fuel model- For all lands. WUI is a component. High risk, low risk, moderate risk across the county based on the input that we decide. Will use fuels that are out there. Ratings based on projects we've done. Nonburn ag, timber and timber litter, grass fuels, grass/shrub, tall continuous grass- CRP lands.

Slope- 0-18, 19-30, 31-55, >55. Categories have been developed by other counties based on what type of apparatus could you get on these slopes? This is more about ability to control a fire.

Aspect- hotter drier sites, highest rating.

Population density- \$\$ loss potential, Critical infrastructure on this map too? Could this look like the WUI map?

Fire rate of spread.

Wildland fire intensity- Allen- everything is burnable. Non burnable areas shouldn't be 0. Weight assigned to pixel. What is the risk inside an individual pixel. Cumulative affects of all the different layers.

Will this have much of an affect?

Wildland fire intensity- How gage this. Based on what we feel is higher and lower. Higher BTU's

Comes up with final map showing relative threat level. Map displayed shows relative threat level with low threat level for some timber.

Discussion of data layers. Input into the model- Important to have the relative threat level discussion and the ground truthing.

The group dispersed to draw details on maps and provide information to Vaiden.

## **April 24th, 2014**

**Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, May 3-** Pam Brown gave an update of preparations for a community event at Jim Sprick Park in the Nile Valley. The BLM has provided a banner. Upper Valley Press is running big spread on the event. Fire Stations 10 and 11 are placing the event on their reader boards. Smokey the Bear will be there. Fire engines and brush trucks will be there from Nile and possibly DNR. Lion's Club is providing lunch, Nile Women's Club is having a bake sale, NYCS is bringing the chipper and people can sign up for its use. TNC and USFS are developing a PSAS . 200 people are anticipated at the event. Cub scouts will teach how to safely build and extinguish a fire. Ready Set Go pamphlets will be distributed.

Yakima County will proclaim the day. County agenda next Tuesday AM April 29 at the commissioners meeting- there will be a proclamation that May 3 is community wildfire preparedness day. There is time allotted if anyone is willing to show up and make comments. Furthermore Chuck Wytko was interviewed on KYRO Radio re wildfire preparedness.

1. Tera began sharing some of the potential text for beginnings of the risk assessment. **Draft Chapter 3-** intended to be background info from other documents (**see handout**). Language was pulled from the original Yakima County CWPP and the County's comprehensive plan 2015. **Terra will send out a copy for people to enter in track changes. Hopes to get feedback by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Karen B. also requested that Tera add a draft of the full table of contents so we can see context of this chapter.** Chapter 1&2 will be intro and summary of the planning process- not much written yet since process is underway. **At present NW Management is still operating on the basis that the product is a risk assessment and not necessarily a CWPP. Details have not been worked out yet with the County.** Lots of information is also pulled from the Douglas and Franklin County CWPP's.
2. Tera presented some content for **Draft Chapter 4. Review of fire protection issues. (see handout)**

Allen- Important to present the information in digestible bits. Please more bullet points, short sentences.

Julie- Would be good to not just default to the same language from other CWPP's. It would be appropriate to structure a discussion of fire protection issues and recommended actions in terms of fire adapted communities and the 3 challenges in national policy which are:

- 1) Restoring Resilient landscapes- Actions land managers need to take to address the fire regime and ecosystem health.
- 2) Creating fire adapted communities (FAC) - Fire managers need options and opportunities for engaging communities and working with them to reduce the wildfire threat. Goal: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- 3) Responding to wildfires- There is a need to recognize differing missions of local, state, tribal, and federal agencies and commit to collaborate moving forward. Goal: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Central to the CWPP would be issue number 2 and 3.

**Vaiden discussed the maps-** Vaiden summarized how committee comments from the last meeting were incorporated into the map of the WUI. In shrub steppe it was extended further out into wildlands to account for rate of spread. Infrastructure WUI was also added along with a chunk of Yakama Nation Lands. This means the WUI is getting larger.

Jakki- How affect areas where DNR and Forest Service have lands? Tera- DNR will have their projects anyway- forest management projects. But if using CWPP as justification, funding wouldn't apply.

Forest service couldn't be here. They will be at the next meeting. Are we coordinating in a way that we aren't tying hands with this map? Brandon- Federal WUI classifications need to be addressed. Lots of forest service land is addressed in hwy 410 12 CWPP. Need to compare these. How do the maps differ? If so what does it mean? Pam- some projects prioritized in original document were dependent on funding but haven't come through. Still waiting for funding. Maybe Karen can help Pam- discuss with forest service?, next 5 years what are your plans? Significant differences in how forest moves projects forward now. What projects are planned and moving forward? How do these dovetail with community recommendations?

Karen- is WUI on the map wide enough? Will work with advisors to determine if we want to change this. Hasn't been decided yet.

Relative threat level mapping- Tool for identifying high risk areas in the county. Identifying issues that affect man and structures.

Data Layers-

Crop and Veg layers incorporated from Arid Lands Initiative for nonforest lands. This is best available.

Slope

Aspect

The group discussed the Fire Protection Layer- Current is a map of the location of fire protection districts. How do we account in the relative threat map for areas where there is wildland protection vs. those where there is none and for areas where wildland protection is covered by onsite resources vs. offsite agreements where there may be more of a delay? It was noted that BLM doesn't yet have an agreement in place with District 5 for fire response this year. How capture fact that some lands are protected through contract- but not the checkerboard near hwy 241. Lots of DNR land not protected. BLM may be protected through contracts. Same on hwy 12 portions of cabin groups are under protection, but not all of the cabin groups. Portion of Hwy 12.

Erik Ellis- suggest that federal and state protections- geared more toward resource protection. Provides benefit to homes and people, but different level of benefit provided by fire districts and structure protection. BLM has two engines, YTC has huge suppression resources, USFWS, Hanford. Evaluation of what is provided by protection.

Allen concern – put good titles of what maps stand for. Need to define protection. Capture somewhere. Weight in terms of time takes to reach location.

Allen propose this map then another map that excludes the districts but puts other forms of protection and response on the map.

Yakama lands mapped in the WUI area are wildland protection. Buffer about 1 mile around the whole area. Signal peak? Listed as areas where people go, but not as separate protection. Structures in the closed area. Camp Chaparral.

Fire occurrence- In the paste Vaiden has used a population model, but he threw this out. Areas marked as high areas of ignition are based on the fire data. Higher annual rate of ignition from all sources.. Clusters over 1 year period of lots of fires. How account for JBLMYTC fire starts?

Rate of spread based on fire model. Wildland fire intensity. Precipitation. Dry areas.

GIS layers described. Final model of relative risk. incorporate- point system for agency fire protection and build in to threat level?

BLM- Yakama Nation. Some protection- would that lower the indicators on this map. May not notice with color blending though. High risk affects accumulating in some areas. Agency responsibility- levels? Clarification of response time.

3. Discussion of how to incorporate the various community plans into a countywide plan without losing individuality and autonomy. Tera was not concerned about this being a problem. As document starts coming together and see more of the pieces. One proposed framework is the following table:

This led into a discussion of how to address community level risks. Tera said in the past they have broken things out by vegetation type. This could be done by area instead of veg type. 410/12 plan for example could be its own area. Same thing for Cowiche, for the Tribe. What level for areas where there is no community plan?

Same thing for mitigation strategy- where there are countywide similar goals we can address these at that level, but also have individual community action items. One table- safety and policy items, prevention mitigation education section, infrastructure enhancements table. Resources and capabilities. Specifics to fuel reduction type projects. Have this separated by agencies and prioritized by the county?



Pam- don't want to be part of umbrella organization and our priorities are less valuable. Our priorities for our community are our priorities. Tera- Lend capacity of group to your priorities, not take away from it. Need to make sure we end up there. Tera- Copy and paste information wholesale from 410/12- is that OK?

Jakki- OEM has a comprehensive plan for FEMA risks. Same kind of things Hazard mitigation planning contact Jim Hall.

Reese- concern early on issue was autonomy. If trying to dev a plan in a way for areas that don't have plans now and existing plans. How maintain energy in places where community is engaged. How facilitate greater engagement in other parts of the county. But still maintain ownership in local communities. Having strong countywide plans with individual identities can create more without creating more competition. Some funding streams we probably aren't realizing at present and with this could be more competitive in bringing funds.

Allen- Need to define very clearly the purpose of the overall county plan. Strategy, missions statements- We should be all about life safety. Have this very clear and rest of plan would follow suit with that. Allen very passionate about this area in white swan because we have had issues out there. Should be more clarification of issues. As a group. Wouldn't want to categorize my priorities over someone else's. Priorities should all stand alone in the areas where those priorities exist. Our plan must give credibility to individual plans.

Tera, Handout of currently proposed activities- give indication of status of projects. Will you want to see any of this in the mitigation strategy in the final document. Provide by Mid may for Tera. **Note for Tera-talk to Betsy Bloomfield.**

**Will need some outreach- USFS, Cowiche CWPP- updates here? Not all of those that need to provide input are present.**

4. **Field outings scheduling-0** verify mapping products, see what county looks like. Contract. Must write 3 project descriptions to turn into grant applications. Don't have to be 3 highest priority projects- could be several different kinds of projects. Some land management, some education.

Look at areas where we want to see projects. NW Management will do 3 prescriptions and set projects up for grant writing. Where are highest priority project areas? Get some eyes on this. Schedule separate days. Where should we go and who should we go with? Areas that are needed to be seen. Issue and project.

Jakki- County wants real time accurate 2014 data for the risk assessment. Ground truthing. We have changes since Cowiche Mtn. plan was done just being current. Forest service isn't here. No one from Cowiche Mtn. Susan Maza is back- outreach to Susan and Betsy. Overarching mission statement. Not preference of how but make sure get addressed.

Allen- send out email to chiefs heads up- east valley Selah, west valley, district 5 those with bigger fire concerns. Possible Evening chiefs meeting. **Julie- Community level risks summary from old CWPP- copy this and send out to chiefs for updating and comment.** Community level projects?

May 22 setting up meeting with hwy 410/12 individuals? Julie mentioned falcon crest area and Dave Leitch .

Purpose of field visit- verify conditions and propose projects? Implementation- fuel treatment projects primarily have in mind?

White Swan, and Yakima river corridor- Allen.

What does project implementation look like? Have we moved into proposing actions already for a CWPP? Reese- why are we narrowing the scope to vegetation treatment projects? Fuel reduction? Risk abatement isn't only about cutting trees.

Allen- What do we stand for? Discussion is making it less clear. Is our priority still on communities and residences? Must gear under central facet, comes back to life and property. Issue of prevention. Guiding principle.

Reese- It's all linked how community adapts has an effect on how well forest objectives can move forward.

Discussion about guiding principles- Let's not lose direction and focus.

Erik-Cowiche mtn. key premise was idea that protection of life, then property, but if only address those two, then best solution would be to clear the sagebrush and do prescribed burns each spring across, but lots of other issues that play into that. Bringing fire regime back to a normal state helps all the objectives. Sage-grouse listing could be huge economically for the county.

Put priorities where the need is. Needs to be sustainable in some way.

Karen B.- continue to frame issues as FAC. Missions distinctly noted. See the thread pulling this together.

Karen F.- mitigation and education- in world of perfect- these two get community buy in and becomes responsible for their area. What can we do to make this work? Money won't replace education and responsibility. –

Pam community autonomy- and keep the government out! That has been the tone in our community. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations that settled this area. Different than a 40 acre tract in the woods.

Develop smokey bear commercial- its everybody's responsibility. Capture that in what we are trying to do here too. Allen- go easy on the government. They are part of the community- give them tools to be successful. It's their home too.

Julie- Suggest we adopt the guiding principles from the cohesive strategy and western regional action plan:

- Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.
- Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.
- Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.
- Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.
- Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.
- Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge, and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.
- Local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.
- Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and costs down.

- Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations."

## **May 22nd, 2014**

Reese gave a recap of last meeting and activities in the interim:

In past said we need to do better at outreach and homeowner awareness. After our Workshop we decided to use May 3 as a way to raise awareness about the need for preparedness and the different roles.

Thanks to County Commissioners and Jakki for making Wildfire Preparedness Day official in the County to acknowledge the work that is underway. Yakima Herald did a short article talking about wildfire preparedness. More press in the Upper Valley Press with a full spread of educational material. May 3 event in the Nile Valley. Slide show of the event. Sparky with boyscouts from Highland highschool. Mike Tobin with NYCD had the community chipper there to share. The fire District talking with people. Annie Schmidt outreach survey to administer handed out to several residents. Model – which side of the house has best defensible space. Nile women’s club provided food. Forest Service with information. Reese showed example of insurance add in the paper: Don’t get pburned. Pemco.com/DontGetBurned. Front page of the Herald today. Chipper program moving forward.

Outcomes? Do they lead to more participation in chipper program and in interest in home assessment? Was this engagement worth our energy. 93 people showed up and came through. Pam- makes sense to do the chipper on May 3 and have the booth and information at another event. How many people want to come out to an event specifically about something they know they should do, but don’t really want to do. Nile women’s club women did pay attention to chipper info and were calling to make appointments for their properties.

Other efforts- FAC diagram. Local fire district fundraising to update infrastructure. Recent article in the herald. Forest service thinking about prescribe burns. There is engagement happening. Most focused on homeowners and residents, but things happening. Pam working with Fire Chiefs re ready set go- sending photos of the event.

Jakki us fire administration group related to cohesive strategy. Celebrate accomplishment as much as possible. Jakki- confirmed that PILT funds will be used for completing the CWPP. Yes. Officially moving to a countywide CWPP. Work on updating 410/12 Cwpp as well. How enable coordinating funds from different sources to enable the different issues we are dealing with across the county? From Yakama Nation to BIA to BLM to shrubsteppe to the Training Center. What are different ways we can engage for resources to work on these issues.

Tera- in the midst of the writing for the now official CWPP

Goals and Guiding Principles of the CWPP – Review of the language for this within the Countywide CWPP.

Julie- it’s all good

Reese- Tone implies the first responders are responsible for it all. Rewrite as a group, but component of how we empower everyone to take responsibility in their roles.

Karen B.- Does the vision include beyond planning? –education, training, support, planning?

Scott- include implementation in the vision-

Allen- add element of personal responsibility

Annie- business council- discussing how fire affects businesses. Tourism. Potential to engage certain parts of our community that we haven’t yet to make a different.

Joe- where is the word collaboration from HFRA?

Allen- goals- fire protection districts are listed. But “district’ could exclude some fire departments.

Karen F- integrated CWPP’s? what does this mean? “recognize” is better? Inform?

WUI and threat level maps?

Overview of Fire Protection System- maps discussion of jurisdictions

Discussion of coverage- DNR will get Vaiden a map of their protection jurisdiction. Cabins in Naches are in the fire district- contract implied. Need to add in USFWS refuge in Toppenish. They protect their land. Also some wdfw land missing?

Fire Dept. District Questionnaire- chance to have a voice, put in own words. This was presented to the fire chiefs last week. Pressure and leverage if you can.....includes resource list for the county. Why list all of the apparatuses? Discussing infrastructure needs. Provides a full picture of status. Apparatus utility is dependent on availability of personnel, so don’t forget this. Add average response time and average number of people that might respond. Even mutual aid levels of response is variable. Paint this picture. Age of engine is 1963 and firefighter average age is about the same!!!! Message not just for plan but also snapshot in time where we are and interesting 10 years from now. Don’t want public to have false sense of security.

Community Risk Assessment

Julie send shapefile for Cowiche CWPP.

Julie send contact information to Tera for Rick Woodall they should be consulted on developing some risk assessment language for the Moxee area.

Karen B. circled additional areas that make sense for assessment.

Field assessments June 3-5 to look at issues? Possibly if Rick Woodall is available. Coordinate driving around in that area. Also messages for Tobin re projects 410/12 has listed.

Karen F.- new doors opening, priorities may change.

White Pass/Hwy 12- cabins on forest service lands. Buildings themselves are only thing in the district. Forest service still has wildland protection. Fuel mitigation is forest service-

Contact Erik Ellis

Next meeting normally on June 26<sup>th</sup>? Push out to middle of July? Committee meeting with rough draft of the full plan and public meetings at the same time? Input from public in July. Draft for public comment goes out later. Public meeting is more informational.

Joe meeting early in the planning process- crayons to write in concerns. Start there, running pathway towards mitigation.

Allen- good to include community early on. Get some newspaper adds. Operating under assumption that most people are getting the emails?

Reassess the list. Also another piece to inform the community that we are coming to your town. 5 meetings for communities, information meetings? How do outreach? Have meetings in areas where we don’t have a community CWPP. Then hwy410/12 brings the county plan to their steering committee to discuss.

Cowiche- talk to Tom Coleman, Besty Bloomfield, Erik Ellis- relative to their CWPP and project recommendations.

July 17<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting. Afternoon since there are fire meetings before that. 1pm.

## Review of Chapter 6 Mitigation Recommendations

Look at actions that are in this list. Review this and look at what needs to be deleted or combined. If anything missed entirely then send it along.

Start filling out the categories- resources needed, timeline, especially the county stuff.

Karen- language in Chapter 6- policy of review of plan annually and reeval 5 years from that. Is this a so what? Or is this for real. This would fall to the County. Do plans expire?

Allen- all CWPP's meeting at one time this is good , a bigger picture

Reese- FLN- all pilots are doing things differently- but they are all talking to eachother. Develop synergies for shared outcomes?

Tera- Coalition will go forward after the plan is done. Responsibility falls on the Coalition, not necessarily the County? Who should be responsible?

Karen- whoever makes updates and decisions is the community itself. The people that live within the CWPP boundaries. They need to make these decisions as to what priorities are. This is my perspective for 410/12. We would be the people making the update to our plan.

Reese- This is a work product of the Coalition. Projects within the body of work, networking communities who are doing things, learning from , seeing what opportunities in our broader network is what the coalition is about. Whoever wants to come to this table can but then going back to communities within the county to make things happen.

Allen- How does this work though. This group here today wanting the County CWPP to move forward. Once these people are gone, who will be the contact person and maintain energy? Whose responsibility? The people who sign the document themselves. Jakki is the fire marshall and coordinator to get us all together. We need one organization responsible to put the coalition back together. County commissioners to appoint someone?

Reese- how are people in places supported to move through their barriers. Question moving forward. Is there value getting blm, dnr, fire districts together several time per year to share progress. Interest in keeping this alive. Maybe s. central war cd when they hire an executive director. Way to keep it moving beyond the county.

Allen- Yakima County should be on the spot to put this together. Who will be involved in this review? Allen looking at how did it all begin. Made sense that it didn't grow from the grass, it had some input from the outside.

Pam- actively seek our own replacements, we will need to do this.

What would the coalition look like? Define representative roles for the coalition. Create more of a framework.

Reese- FLN will get expanded next year in Washington. More support in Washington is possible. Opens up other doors.

## **July 17th, 2014**

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ITEMS FROM MEETING: (WHO SAID THEY WOULD DO WHAT?)

- Reese will work with Ryan of RC&D and others to develop an initial draft of Coalition purpose/mission and structure.

South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council: new executive director, Ryan Anderson

- SCWRCD sponsored and developed with partners the Wildland Urban Interface Conference last fall in Wenatchee. See RC&D website to view agenda and presentations. , We also initiated coordinating the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Workshop to Yakima in winter 2014, before going through staff changes.
- Resulting from the WUI Conference:

#### Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition

SCWRCD is interested in seeing how we could play a role moving forward in supporting ongoing efforts of the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. We are a fiscal sponsor to many organizations, and do play a role in writing and managing grants for groups that do not have formal 501c3 legal status, but that do work consistent with our mission.

Question from Reese: who wants to be on contact list? Many of you have been contributing to keeping this effort moving, please let me know if you would like to be listed on the agendas as a contact. Reese provided a history of how the group came to be- from the Wenatchee Conference, to follow-up meetings in Yakima and Yakima Working Together for a Fire Adapted Community workshop to the formation of the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition that identified two main actions to take on first: Identify ways to create more awareness and empower homeowners and residents to take actions to prepare for wildfire AND revise the Yakima County CWPP.

Joe: when we are done with CWPP, what is role of group?

RL in other words: It was never intended that this group form for the sole intent of revising the County CWPP, it was to Identify how people in different Roles that are affected by wildfire can work together to help to improve wildfire preparedness before, during and after wildfires. Identify specific strategies and actions that can be taken to overcome barriers in achieving Fire Adapted Communities in the Yakima Valley. A natural step was the CWPP, because in theory, it summarizes issues and prioritizes projects that this group members and together are and can work on... Of course, the Coalition, with more of an organized and united voice, can also be a venue to seek and be competitive for obtaining funds/grants from many sources for efforts across the county.

JM- once there was a time when “local wildfire coordinating group” people would bring their applications to the group and would prioritize based on consensus.

RL- CWPP- once completed, this group can play a role supporting projects and sharing successes and issues as work moves forward. Technically, the CWPP needs a steering committee to meet and review progress once a year, but I think this group could do more than that, be more productive and action oriented.

Tera King (TK) Moved Project Mapping discussion to top of discussion.

Project Mapping: gmail account getting worked out. Some of the names in the middle of the list don't receive email.

Project map: right now, only projects that TK has are from USFS shapefile with all of their treatments and it includes some planting

- May be additional projects
- Need from group the high priority projects
- Some projects are outside of WUI, so probably can't get funding with WUI caveats.
- Anything we add, should consider a priority
- Would still need info from Yakama Nation

- Invited to put projects on map using markers
- Projects should be fuels or vegetation treatment, tried to remove unrelated “stuff” like pre-project planning.
- Could leave invasive veg projects,
- Think about re-vegetation- some are relevant and some not
- Look at some examples?
- RL: Fire breaks? Id. Existing fire breaks, mapped breaks, talked to experienced people, thinking about where that would be a good tool and make sense. When has it worked well and not so well
- Ongoing process-AW-shrub steppe issue- if they burn off that break? Need to think about where to burn firebreak in relative to shrub steppe habitat needs

CWPP- Joe :not just what we need in next 2 years, but maybe next 10, Develop a “dream list” and look out over 10 years.

TK if is on your mind, put it on the list.

- Most groups have 5 years review and add projects at 5, can add projects every year, but 5 year is normal
- Think about maintenance projects

410/12

Chipper

- Now w/ in last month, chipper is available on USFS lease property so cabin owners can now use chipper program. Set of rules just came out for this.
- Freshwater, met with fire, Have permission to put a brochure in the “Hook and Ladder”, and through the 410/12, can send to White Pass side as well. Explain chipper through NYCD, and explain set of criteria for removing fuel around structures
- Road closures, some road closures not going forward in order to keep ingress/egress available.

TK, to Joe, do you have educational programs? Joe will send shapefile for map

Scott- can get shapefile for projects on private land

WDFW – associated with Tapash in forest, and Shrub steppe- restoration work in Wenas.

There are forest plans for each wildlife area. Some areas of highest risk due to insect damage, Wenas low on list >10yr

RL can get Oak Creek including Rock Creek

TK old business. Spent about 4 days getting familiar with area.

Looking at risk and potential projects.

½ day in 410/12

Fire dept. surveys

District 3,4,5, 12 have turned in surveys

DRAFT CWPP

TK- check on FD 10 and 11. District 14- TK will double check

- Get a picture for the cover. TK make sure we credit photographer correctly.
- Foreward: let TK know if something important missing.

Chp 1: planning process and where it comes from

- Provide short summary of YVFAC coalition?
  - RL will: Add a paragraph to discuss Cohesive strategy, FAC, YVFACC,
- P 7 Hwy 410/12 and Cowiche
- Freshwater will add language and send to TK

Ch 2. Will grow as we move along.

Ch 3 description of county

- Set the stage
- BOR lands? Not many but USBR and BLM partner on suppression
- Jacki will send info and suggestions
- TK leave in info about ecoregions?
- Jacki- other municipal areas? Does that mean incorporated or un-incorporated?
- Julie had sent additional sage grouse information

Ch 4 fire characteristics and hazard assessments based on previous efforts map- fire history

- RL can we look at different wording than fire history, that means different things.
- Data set goes back to 1980, getting an idea of trend
- RL- pre-european piece, pg 29 TK, mentioned that this is mentioned later
- Question about 1992 and 1993- why are numbers so big? Anyone know?
- BLM might have polygons with this.
- Could pick a fire and add a narrative story?

TK: p 34 risk model

- TK: to make CWPP less than 5 mb, could have images as appendix? Joe, not as user friendly
- WUI- what that means p 42, most recent map
- RL- weren't we going to take this to ridgelines, easier to manage a veg project to the ridgeline.
- Current version is just a buffer

How much discussion with nrd?

AW- how to id non-forested assessed land, wdfw manages non forest dnr land, rec and ad deal with stuff outside. DNR, mostly lesse, non forest land, lessee managers land/fire

TK will try to flesh out the language w/ DNR and WDFW relationship better.

TK relative threat level mapping: Seasonality of map?

What is relative threat level



Higher in forest?

Multiple layers to categorize risk? Slope, aspect, vegetation, etc

- Rate of spread, avg wind speed etc . .
- A question about the accuracy of model compared
- BLM- important to identify what is at risk? CWPP should prioritize, infrastructure, lives, homes, little threat to WUI if? Threat is relative.
- Could we overlay threat map with wui?
- RL non-infrastructure threat
  - Local economics
  - Smoke
  - Air quality
- Large fire- extended fire?
- It's important to identify a threat/risk to what? Or risk of ignition, spread,
- Could we add info based on WUI threat? Humans/ human built environment/
- RL. ESA is a serious economic threat. If a bird or other species listed, could be important to county.
- Base threat level on something
- Aw: could go back to mission statement, burn ban, trying to combine risk
- Lots of discussion on threat level map.

Tk-

- will look at how this was all rated and get back to us. AW if you take our aspect and slope.

Blm- might be useful to analyze these things specifically

RL what might be useful for an analysis.

Joe: forest components don't always satisfy shrub steppe grasslands.

P 61 no man's land? Is that the right phrase?

AW email comments? Will send in some suggested language ( a paragraph)

P 47: what is meant by delayed response? Is this relative to what?

- TK will work on paragraph

Funding: Add NRCS EQIP, DNR program, chipper program

New construction- there is a code that requires defensible space.

Ch 5 Joe

TK 2 areas not necessarily in plan.

- Wenas and area south of training center.
- Area south of Training Center. Narrow connectivity corridor for sage grouse.

Ch 6 lots of items from 2008 plan.

- Can add, delete, if we want to clean up let TK know.

Once Plan Complete- what is the organizational structure?

- Could work through RC and D. Utilize 501c (3).
- Have a steering committee.

Send TK feedback, dream list, meant to be @ least 5 years, list everything you could think of.

- RL How do you prioritize. People send lists of priorities. Average the results?
- Group could prioritize based on situation or based on area. Might establish a list and prioritize each year based on annual meeting and review at.

TK- pointing out that the work involves providing preparation of 3 prescriptions. YVFACC identifies 3 projects and nw management provides 3 prescriptions.

TK: schedule going forward.

Public meetings when we go to public, have a rough draft. How to optimize public participation. Teachable moments when fire is right there.

AW – using housing authority national night out as a venue.

- YVFAC meeting- multiple public meetings,
- RC and D could be a line to document

## **August 28th, 2014**

Start of meeting: discussion about setting up the structure of the YVFACC vs the CWPP steering committee. They can be the same or different. Not just one entity is in charge, so who can help coordinate. There was some concern that the Fire Marshalls office should be the convener.

Should the CWPP and YVFACC be separated?

CWPP

Responsibility (who?)

Annual Meeting

Updates

Vs

YVFACC

Function

Collaboration, Funding, Communication, and Outreach

Engage greater amount of the community with a FAC approach including engaging businesses.

Committee reviewed draft CWPP and appendices. Tera will be updating the document based on the discussion.

Discussion about fair booth and whether it would accomplish the CWPP's public involvement objectives. NMI will work with Fire District #5, the BLM, the RC&D, and Yakima County to provide materials and staff the Fair Booth in September.

## October 23rd, 2014

Everyone should leave with the following:

When comments from group will be in

When final DRAFT document will be available for public comment

When the public review period will start.

By the next meeting we will have a plan out for public review and comment, a plan to re-invigorate the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Landscape. Set a meeting date to kick off effort next year.

Discussion by Yakima County Emergency Management staff- updating Countywide plan for FEMA- this includes incorporating portions of the CWPP into the County wide plan.

Questions by Karen Freshwater, HWY 410/12 CWPP- what does it mean to be a partner?

This is in reference to road closures. Karen reported that road closure was very frustrating and she felt the USFS more than ignored the CWPP, but they said that it has no value in their environmental review process.

Follow up. Ryan will pose Karen's question to a broader audience.

Karen will report back on the USFS and County progress to get road issue resolved.

CWPP Review:

Fire Department Surveys

Acknowledgements, Make sure Nile is in there.

Entities responsible for document: Board of County Commissioners and State Forester (DNR)

Ch1 No Major Changes

Ch2 added everyone that came to meetings/commented

Ch3 no significant changes: USFW added updates to pg 19, landowner map updates

Ch4 does not include fire department ignition input –fires that were put out by FD not reported in input, so it is correct according to the information that was provided.

There is an updated WUI map on page 40

P 42 relative threat level mapping

“The steering committee ranked threats to their potential impact to life, property, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems.”

Difference between rangeland and forest

Adjust fire behavior model

Before, highest rank if timbered

Now, cheatgrass has highest potential to impact shrub steppe.

No information from FD 2, 6, 9 and USFS

P 63 Rich was going to work on information for no mans land

Ch5

Ch 6 action items tied back to goals

P 97

Project areas map

Tera needs a project description

Will add public comment period comments/section

App 4 starts on p 34 has fire service info.

Tera: need project descriptions for 3 projects. Some proposed fuel breaks

Grant application style- Oak Creek. Something else. Fuel breaks, fire districts/depts..

Cowiche Area, Ahtanum, White Swan, Yakima County timber, Selah

Determined to get comments to Tera by the 10<sup>th</sup>, and final out on 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Ryan Anderson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the final CWPP preparation meeting and asking for introductions around the table. Following introductions, Ryan discussed several upcoming outreach and training events that might interest members of the committee.

Old Business – Tera King reviewed the comments received during the public comment period on the draft CWPP, which closed on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The committee discussed all of the final edits to both the draft main document and the associated CWPP. There was one new section in the Appendices; the 3 project prescriptions for the Bumping Lake/Goose Prairie HFT, the Ahtanum Forest Health, and the Wenas Defensible Space projects. The committee discussed the purpose of the write-ups and how they would be used for future planning.

Tera also discussed with the committee the purpose of the participant signature pages and asked for additions to the list of signatories. The committee reviewed the remaining project timeline and the approval process for the County Commissioners and the State Forester. The committee also spent considerable time discussing next steps for the committee and how to keep the momentum for wildfire planning moving forward. The committee decided that the County Fire Marshal's Office would be in charge of planning future meetings and notifying the steering committee of upcoming events or other opportunities. Tera reiterated the importance of the committee's future meetings for implementing projects defined in the CWPP. The DNR discussed how the grant process worked for their agency and how the Yakima County CWPP committee would be involved in the future.

All additional comments on the draft are due to Tera by Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Tera will provide the County final documents the following week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

## Appendix 3

### Risk Analysis Models

#### Historic Fire Regime

A natural fire regime is a general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human mechanical intervention, but including the influence of aboriginal burning (Agee 1993, Brown 1995). Coarse-scale definitions for natural (historical) fire regimes have been developed by Hardy et al. (2001) and Schmidt et al. (2002) and interpreted for fire and fuels management by Hann and Bunnell (2001). The five natural (historical) fire regimes are classified based on average number of years between fires (fire frequency) combined with the severity (amount of replacement) of the fire on the dominant overstory vegetation. These five regimes include: I – 0-35 year frequency and low (surface fires most common) to mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced); II – 0-35 year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced); III – 35-100+ year frequency and mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced); IV – 35-100+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced); V – 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity.

A database of fire history studies in Washington was used to develop modeling rules for predicting historical fire regimes (HFRs). Tabular fire-history data and spatial data was stratified into ecoregions, potential natural vegetation types (PNVs), slope classes, and aspect classes to derive rule sets which were then modeled spatially. Expert opinion was substituted for a stratum when empirical data was not available.

Fire is one of the dominant disturbance processes that manipulate vegetation patterns in Washington. The HFR data were prepared to supplement other data necessary to assess integrated risks and opportunities at regional and subregional scales. The HFR theme was derived specifically to estimate an index of the relative change of a disturbance process, and the subsequent patterns of vegetation composition and structure.

These data were derived using fire history data from a variety of different sources. These data were designed to characterize broad scale patterns of historical fire regimes for use in regional and subregional assessments. Any decisions based on these data should be supported with field verification, especially at scales finer than 1:100,000. Because the resolution of the HFR theme is 30 meter cell size, the expected accuracy does not warrant their use for analyses of areas smaller than about 10,000 acres (for example, assessments that typically require 1:24,000 data).

#### Vegetation Condition Class

Vegetation Condition Class (VCC) is an interagency, standardized tool for determining the degree of departure from reference condition vegetation, fuels, and disturbance regimes. Assessing VCC can help guide management objectives and set priorities for treatments.

As scale of application becomes finer the five historic fire regimes may be defined with more detail, or any one class may be split into finer classes, but the hierarchy to the coarse scale definitions should be retained. Coarse-scale VCC classes have been defined and mapped by

Hardy et al. (2001) and Schmidt et al. (2001). They include three condition classes for each historic fire regime. The classification is based on a relative measure describing the degree of departure from the historical natural fire regime. This departure results in changes to one (or more) of the following ecological components: vegetation characteristics (species composition, structural stages, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern); fuel composition; fire frequency, severity, and pattern; and other associated disturbances (e.g. insect and diseased mortality, grazing, and drought). There are no wildland vegetation and fuel conditions or wildland fire situations that do not fit within one of the three classes.

The three classes are based on low (VCC 1), moderate (VCC 2), and high (VCC 3) departure from the central tendency of the natural (historical) regime (Hann and Bunnell 2001, Hardy et al. 2001, Schmidt et al. 2002). The central tendency is a composite estimate of vegetation characteristics (species composition, structural stages, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern); fuel composition; fire frequency, severity, and pattern; and other associated natural disturbances. Low departure is considered to be within the natural (historical) range of variability, while moderate and high departures are outside.

Characteristic vegetation and fuel conditions are considered to be those that occurred within the natural (historical) fire regime. Uncharacteristic conditions are considered to be those that did not occur within the natural (historical) fire regime, such as invasive species (e.g. weeds, insects, and diseases), “high graded” forest composition and structure (e.g. large trees removed in a frequent surface fire regime), or repeated annual grazing that maintains grassy fuels across relatively large areas at levels that will not carry a surface fire.

Determination of amount of departure is based on comparison of a composite measure of fire regime attributes (vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern) to the central tendency of the natural (historical) fire regime. The amount of departure is then classified to determine the vegetation condition class. A simplified description of the fire regime condition classes and associated potential risks follow.

<b>Vegetation Condition Class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>
<b>Condition Class 1</b>	Within the natural (historical) range of variability of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.	<p>Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are similar to those that occurred prior to fire exclusion (suppression) and other types of management that do not mimic the natural fire regime and associated vegetation and fuel characteristics.</p> <p>Composition and structure of vegetation and fuels are similar to the natural (historical) regime.</p> <p>Risk of loss of key ecosystem components (e.g., native species, large trees, and soil) is low.</p>
<b>Condition Class 2</b>	Moderate departure from the natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.	<p>Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are moderately departed (more or less severe).</p> <p>Composition and structure of vegetation and fuel are moderately altered.</p> <p>Uncharacteristic conditions range from low to moderate.</p> <p>Risk of loss of key ecosystem components is moderate.</p>
<b>Condition Class 3</b>	High departure from the natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.	<p>Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are highly departed (more or less severe).</p> <p>Composition and structure of vegetation and fuel are highly altered.</p> <p>Uncharacteristic conditions range from moderate to high.</p> <p>Risk of loss of key ecosystem components is high.</p>

## Appendix 4

### Fire Services Information

#### Fire Services Contact List

**Yakima County Fire District #1:**

Chief: Sam Glanzer  
Telephone: 509-678-4563  
Email: [highlandfire1@centurytel.net](mailto:highlandfire1@centurytel.net)  
Address: 51 Cowiche City Road/PO Box 177  
Cowiche, WA 98923

**Yakima County Fire District #2:**

Chief: Gary Hanna  
Telephone: 509-698-7310  
Address: 206 W Fremont Ave  
Selah, WA 98942

**Yakima County Fire District #3:**

Chief: Dan Mansfield  
Telephone: 509-653-2380  
Email: [nachesfd@yahoo.com](mailto:nachesfd@yahoo.com)  
Address: 102 Naches Ave  
Naches, WA 98937

**Yakima County Fire District #4:**

Chief: Michael Riel  
Telephone: 509-457-8615  
Address: 2003 Beaudry Road  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Yakima County Fire District #5:**

Chief: Brian Vogel  
Telephone: 509-829-5111  
Email: [info@ycfd5.org](mailto:info@ycfd5.org)  
Address: 717 First Ave/PO Box 447  
Zillah, WA 98953

**Yakima County Fire District #6:**

Chief: James Kohl  
Telephone: 509-966-5060  
Address: 81 Gleed Road  
Yakima, WA 98901



**Yakima County Fire District #7:** Chief: Rhon Raschko  
Telephone: 509-894-4034  
Email: [yakimafire7@yahoo.com](mailto:yakimafire7@yahoo.com)  
Address: PO Box 49  
Bickleton, WA 98935

**Yakima County Fire District #9:** Chief: Chris O'Dell  
Telephone: 509-965-7292  
Address: 5000 Naches Heights Road/PO Box 298  
Coviche, WA 98923

**Yakima County Fire District #10:** Services provided by Yakima Fire Department

**Yakima County Fire District #11:** Chief:  
Telephone: 509-453-1291  
Address: 68 W Washington  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Yakima County Fire District #12:** Chief: Dave Leitch  
Telephone: 509-966-3111  
Address: 10000 Zier Road  
Yakima, WA 98908

**Yakima County Fire District #14:** Chief: Steve Smith  
Telephone: 509-658-2445  
Email: [nilefire01@frontier.com](mailto:nilefire01@frontier.com)  
Address: 14550 State Route 410  
Naches, WA 98937

**Bureau of Land Management** Spokane District  
District FMO: Dennis Strange  
Telephone: 509-536-1237  
Address: 1103 N. Fancher  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

**Yakima Training Center** Chief: Rick Seward

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Fire Management Officer: Thomas Skinner  
Telephone: 509-546-8335 or 509-438-6668  
Address: 64 Maple Street  
Burbank, WA 99323

**Yakama Nation Fire Management**

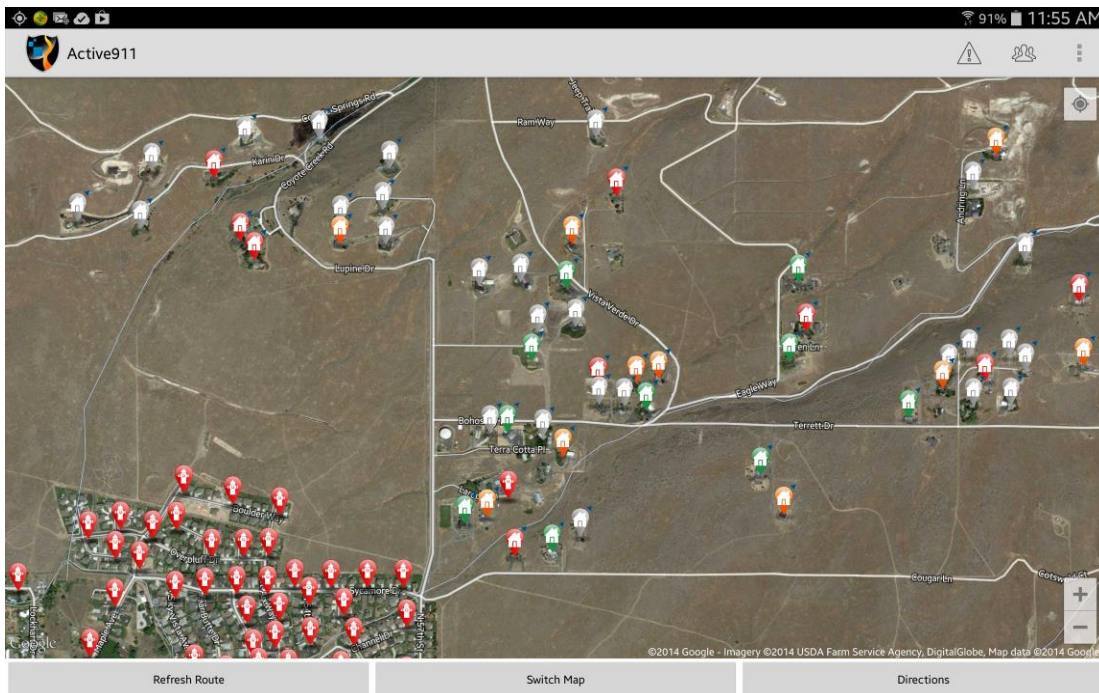
Fire Management Officer: Donald Jones  
Telephone: 509-865-6653  
Address: 1022 Fort Road/PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

Fire Management Officer: Dave Brown, Alpine District  
Telephone: 509-925-0942  
Email: [dave.brown@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:dave.brown@dnr.wa.gov)  
Address: 713 Bowers Road  
Ellensburg, Washington 98926

### Sample Wildfire Hazard Severity Assessment

Yakima County Fire District #4 has been very proactive in completing pre-fire risk assessments throughout the District. This process provides an opportunity for firefighters to interact with homeowners as well as gain information about the individual properties they may respond to in the future. The assessment information also allows for pre-fire planning in high risk areas. The following is a sample of the assessment form and mapping function used by District #4.





**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4  
East Valley Fire Department  
Wildfire Hazard Severity Assessment**

Residence  Commercial  Development  Fuel Pocket  Other



Score: 60

Hazard Assessment	Total Points
1. Low Hazard:	< 49
2. Moderate Hazard:	50 – 68
3. High Hazard:	69 – 83
4. Extreme Hazard:	> 84 +

Name / Facility:	[REDACTED]	
Street Address:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yakima 98901	<input type="checkbox"/> Moxee 98936
Latitude :	[REDACTED]	
Longitude:	[REDACTED]	
Parcel #:	[REDACTED]	
Emergency Phone #:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Hazards:	
		LOOSE PIT BULLS RUNNING
# of Occupants:	3	AROUND
Nearest Water Supply:	[REDACTED]	

Best Access: TH

[REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Element	Points	House or area	#1	Notes
<b>A: Means of Access</b>				
<b>1. Ingress and egress</b>	***			
a. Two or more roads in/out	0			
b. One road, primary route in/out	3			
c. One road in/out	5	X		
<b>2. Primary road width</b>	***			
a. Wider than 24 feet	0			
b. Wider than 20 but less than 24	2	X		
c. Less than 20 feet wide	4			
<b>3. All season road accessibility and condition</b>	***			
a. Smooth road, grade 5% or less	0			
b. Surfaced road, grade 5% or greater	2			
c. Non-surfaced road, rough road grade 5% or less	3			
d. Non-surfaced road, rough road grade 5% or greater	5	X		
e. Other than all season	7			
<b>4. Fire Service Access From Main Road</b>	***			
a. Less than 300 feet, with turnaround	0			
b. Greater than 300 feet, with turnaround	2			
c. Less than 300 feet, with no turnaround	4	X		
d. Greater than 300 feet, with no turnaround	5			
e. Bridge/Culvert with weight limit concerns	10			
<b>5. Street/Address Signs</b>	***			
a. Present (3 to 4 inches in size and reflective)	0	X		
b. No Standard sign	1			
c. No sign present	5			
<b>B: Vegetation (Fuel Models)</b>				
<b>1. NFDRS fuel models</b>	***			
a. Light (e.g., grasses, forbs)	5	X		
b. Medium (e.g., light brush and small trees)	10			
c. Heavy (e.g., dense brush, timber, and hardwoods)	20			
d. Slash (e.g., timber harvesting residue)	25			
<b>2. Defensible space</b>	***			
a. More than 100 feet of vegetation treatment from the structure(s)	1			
b. 71–100 feet of vegetation treatment from the structure(s)	3	X		
c. 30–70 feet of vegetation treatment from the structure(s)	10			
d. Less than 30 feet or no defensible space	25			
<b>C: Topography</b>				
<b>1. Slope</b>	***			
a. Less than 9%	1	X		
b. Between 10% to 20%	4			
c. Between 21% to 30%	7			
d. Between 31% to 40%	8			
e. Greater than 40%	10			
<b>D: Additional Rating Factors</b>				
<b>1. Topographical features that adversely affect</b>	0-5	2		

<b>wildland fire behavior</b>				
<b>2. Areas with a history of higher fire occurrence than surrounding areas due to special situations (e.g., heavy lightning, railroads, escaped debris burning, arson)</b>	0-5	3		
<b>3. Areas that are periodically exposed to unusually severe fire weather and strong dry winds</b>	0-5	3		
<b>4. Adjacent Structures or Fuel loads, example, (hay stack, old cars) that may contribute to fire spread</b>	0-5			
a. North side exposure less than 100 feet				
b. East side exposure less than 100 feet				
c. South side exposure less than 100 feet				
d. West side exposure less than 100 feet				
e. Burn Barrels	2			
f. Other debris such as old cars around house	3			
<b>E: Roofing Material</b>				
<b>1. Construction Material</b>	***			
a. Class A roof (Metal or Tile)	0			
b. Class B roof (Asphalt/Composite)	3	X		
c. Class C roof (wood Shingle)	15			
d. Non-rated	25			
e. Uncommon roof load (i.e. air conditioning unit)				
<b>F: Existing Building Construction</b>				
<b>1. Materials (predominate)</b>	***			
a. Noncombustible/fire resistive siding, eaves & deck	0			
b. Noncombustible siding/ combustible deck	5			
c. Combustible siding and deck	10	X		
<b>2. Building setback relative to slopes of 30% or more</b>	***			
a. More than 30 feet to slope	1	X		
b. Less than 30 feet to slope	5			
<b>G: Available Fire Protection</b>				
<b>1. Water Source Availability (on site) Year Round</b>	***			
a. Fire Protection Sprinkler system	0			
b. 500 gpm hydrants, 1000 feet or less apart	0			
c. 250 gpm hydrants 1000 feet or less apart	1			
d. Non-pressurized Draft 500 gpm	3			
e. Non-pressurized Draft 250 gpm	5			
f. < 250 gpm continuous for 2 hours	10	X		
<b>2. Water Source Availability (off site)</b>	***			
a. Sources within 20 min round trip	1	X		
b. Sources within 21-45 min. round trip	5			
c. Sources within 46 min round trip	7			
d. Seasonal Summer; April - October	2			
e. Seasonal Winter November-March	4			
f. Fire station less than 5 miles from structure	1	X		
g. Fire station greater than 5 miles from structure	3			
<b>H: Utilities Gas and Electric</b>				
<b>1. Placement</b>	***			
a. All underground utilities	1	X		
b. One underground, one above ground	2			
c. All above ground	3			
d. Power line over driveway or over turnaround	5			
<b>I: Other Hazards</b>				
<b>1. Elderly Residence</b>	***	N		

Yes				
<b>2. Handicap</b>	***	N		
Yes				
<b>3. Gurney access complicated by building design</b>	***	N		
Yes				
<b>J: Hazardous material</b>				
<b>1. Hazmat storage over 100 lbs less than 1000 lbs</b>		N		
<b>2. Hazmat storage over 1000 lbs</b>		N		
<b>3. Farm or home usage</b>		N		
<b>4. Commercial usage</b>		N		
<b>K: Other information</b>				
<b>1. Ownership Class</b>	***			
a. Trust				
b. Fee				
c. Deeded				
d. Private		X		
e. Public				
f. Business				
<b>2. Lot size</b>	***			
a. Less than 1 acre				
b. 1 acre to 10 acres		X		
c. More than 10 acres				
<b>3. Building Type</b>	***			
a. Fixed Residence		X		
b. Mobile residence				
c. Public				
d. Commercial				
e. Shop/Garage				
f. Livestock barn				
g. Other				
<b>L: Building Occupancy Status</b>				
a. Occupied year round		X		
b. Seasonal				
c. Vacant or storage				
<b>M. Follow-up</b>				
a. Mowing				
b. Mastication				
c. Dozer work				
d. Hand tools, (chain saw, pruning)				
e. Chemical treatment				
<b>N. Totals for Risk Assessments</b>				

Hazard Assessment	Total Points
<b>1. Low Hazard:</b>	<b>&lt; 49</b>
<b>2. Moderate Hazard:</b>	<b>50 – 68</b>
<b>3. High Hazard:</b>	<b>69 – 83</b>
<b>4. Extreme Hazard:</b>	<b>&gt; 84 +</b>

*-Taken and adapted from the NFPA 299 and in cooperation with BIA (Yakama Nation) and Washington State Department of Natural Resource*

## Appendix 5

### State and Federal CWPP Guidance

#### National Fire Plan

The National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed by the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and their land management agencies in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability. The National Fire Plan continues to provide invaluable technical, financial, and resource guidance and support for wildland fire management across the United States. Together, the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are working to successfully implement the key points outlined in the National Fire Plan.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan fulfills the National Fire Plan's 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan (WFLC 2006). The projects and activities recommended under this plan are in addition to other federal, state, and private / corporate forest and rangeland management activities. The implementation plan does not alter, diminish, or expand the existing jurisdiction, statutory and regulatory responsibilities and authorities or budget processes of participating federal and state agencies.

The NFP goals of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan include:

1. Improve Fire Prevention and Suppression
2. Reduce Hazardous Fuels
3. Restoration and Post-Fire Recovery of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems
4. Promote Community Assistance

By endorsing this implementation plan, all signed parties agree that reducing the threat of wildland fire to people, communities, and ecosystems will require:

- Maintaining firefighter and public safety continuing as the highest priority.
- Communities and individuals in the wildland-urban interface to initiate personal stewardship and volunteer actions that will reduce wildland fire risks.
- A sustained, long-term and cost-effective investment of resources by all public and private parties, recognizing overall budget parameters affecting federal, state, county, and local governments.
- A unified effort to implement the collaborative framework called for in the strategy in a manner that ensures timely decisions at each level.
- Accountability for measuring and monitoring performance and outcomes, and a commitment to factoring findings into future decision making activities.
- The achievement of national goals through action at the local level with particular attention to the unique needs of cross-boundary efforts and the importance of funding on-the-ground activities.

- Management activities, both in the wildland-urban interface and in at-risk areas across the broader landscape.
- Active forestland management, including thinning that produces commercial or pre-commercial products, biomass removal and utilization, prescribed fire and other fuels reduction activities to simultaneously meet long-term ecological, economic, and community objectives.

The National Fire Plan identifies a three-tiered organizational structure including 1) the local level, 2) state/regional and tribal level, and 3) the national level. This plan adheres to the collaboration and outcomes consistent with a local level plan. Local level collaboration involves participants with direct responsibility for management decisions affecting public and/or private land and resources, fire protection responsibilities, or good working knowledge and interest in local resources. Participants in this planning process include local representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, landowners and other stakeholders, and community-based groups with a demonstrated commitment to achieving the strategy's four goals. Existing resource advisory committees, watershed councils, or other collaborative entities may serve to achieve coordination at this level. Local involvement, expected to be broadly represented, is a primary source of planning, project prioritization, and resource allocation and coordination. The role of the private citizen should not be underestimated as all phases of risk assessment, mitigation, and project implementation are greatly facilitated by their involvement.

### **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy**

The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (the FLAME Act) was signed by the President in November 2009. The Act states, in part, "Not later than one year after the date of the enactment, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that contains a cohesive wildfire management strategy." The FLAME Act directs that a cohesive strategy be developed addressing seven specific topic areas ranging from how best to allocate fire budgets at the Federal level to assessing risk to communities, and prioritizing hazardous fuels project funds. The FLAME Act is the catalyst for bringing fire leadership at all levels together and prompting a new approach to how wildland fire is managed. This new approach will guide the development of a national cohesive strategy that paves the way for developing a national wildland fire management policy.

The Cohesive Strategy is a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.

The Cohesive Strategy is being implemented in three phases, allowing stakeholders to systematically develop a dynamic approach to planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fire incidents. This phased approach is designed to promote dialogue between national, regional and local leadership.

### **National Association of State Foresters**

This plan is written with the intent to provide decision makers (elected and appointed officials) the information they need to prioritize projects across the entire county. These decisions may be made by the Board of Commissioners or other elected body or through the recommendations of ad hoc groups tasked with making prioritized lists of communities at risk as well as project areas.



It is not necessary to rank communities or projects numerically, although that is one approach. Rather, it may be possible to rank them categorically (high priority set, medium priority set, and so forth) and still accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in this planning document.

The following was prepared by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), June 27, 2003, and is included here as a reference for the identification and prioritizing of treatments between communities.

**Purpose:** To provide national, uniform guidance for implementing the provisions of the “Collaborative Fuels Treatment” Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and to satisfy the requirements of Task e, Goal 4 of the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy.

**Intent:** The intent is to establish broad, nationally compatible standards for identifying and prioritizing communities at risk, while allowing for maximum flexibility at the state and regional level. Three basic premises are:

- Include all lands and all ownerships.
- Use a collaborative process that is consistent with the complexity of land ownership patterns, resource management issues, and the number of interested stakeholders.
- Set priorities by evaluating projects, not by ranking communities.

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) set forth the following guidelines in the Final Draft Concept Paper; Communities at Risk, December 2, 2002.

**Task:** Develop a definition for “communities at risk” and a process for prioritizing them, per the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (Goal 4.e.). In addition, this definition will form the foundation for the NASF commitment to annually identify priority fuels reduction and ecosystem restoration projects in the proposed MOU with the federal agencies (section C.2 (b)).

### **Conceptual Approach**

1. NASF fully supports the definition of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) previously published in the Federal Register. Further, proximity to federal lands should not be a consideration. The WUI is a set of conditions that exists on, or near, areas of wildland fuels nationwide, regardless of land ownership.
2. Communities at risk (or, alternately, landscapes of similar risk) should be identified on a state-by-state basis with the involvement of all agencies with wildland fire protection responsibilities: state, local, tribal, and federal.
3. It is neither reasonable nor feasible to attempt to prioritize communities on a rank order basis. Rather, communities (or landscapes) should be sorted into three, broad categories or zones of risk: high, medium, and low. Each state, in collaboration with its local partners, will develop the specific criteria it will use to sort communities or landscapes into the three categories. NASF recommends using the publication “Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment Methodology” developed by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program (circa 1998) as a reference guide. (This program, which has since evolved into the Firewise Program, is under the oversight of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)). At a minimum, states should consider the following factors when assessing the relative degree of exposure each community (landscape) faces.

- **Risk:** Using historic fire occurrence records and other factors, assess the anticipated probability of a wildfire ignition.
  - **Hazard:** Assess the fuel conditions surrounding the community using a methodology such as fire condition class, or [other] process.
  - **Values Protected:** Evaluate the human values associated with the community or landscape, such as homes, businesses, and community infrastructure (e.g. water systems, utilities, transportation systems, critical care facilities, schools, manufacturing and industrial sites, and high value commercial timber lands).
  - **Protection Capabilities:** Assess the wildland fire protection capabilities of the agencies and local fire departments with jurisdiction.
4. Prioritize by project not by community. Annually prioritize projects within each state using the collaborative process defined in the national, interagency MOUs, “For the Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program.” Assign the highest priorities to projects that will provide the greatest benefits either on the landscape or to communities. Attempt to properly sequence treatments on the landscape by working first around and within communities, and then moving further out into the surrounding landscape. This will require:
- First, focusing on the zone of highest overall risk but considering projects in all zones. Identify a set of projects that will effectively reduce the level of risk to communities within the zone.
  - Second, determining the community’s willingness and readiness to actively participate in an identified project.
  - Third, determining the willingness and ability of the owner of the surrounding land to undertake, and maintain, a complementary project.
  - Last, setting priorities by looking for projects that best meet the three criteria above. It is important to note that projects with the greatest potential to reduce risk to communities and the landscape may not be those in the highest risk zone, particularly if either the community or the surrounding landowner is not willing or able to actively participate.
5. It is important, and necessary, that we be able to demonstrate a local level of accomplishment that justifies to Congress the value of continuing the current level of appropriations for the National Fire Plan. Although appealing to appropriators and others, it is not likely that many communities (if any) will ever be removed from the list of communities at risk. Even after treatment, all communities will remain at some, albeit reduced, level of risk. However, by using a science-based system for measuring relative risk, we can likely show that, after treatment (or a series of treatments); communities are at “*reduced risk*.”

Using the concept described above, the NASF believes it is possible to accurately assess the relative risk that communities face from wildland fire. Recognizing that the condition of the vegetation (fuel) on the landscape is dynamic, assessments and re-assessments must be done on a state-by-state basis, using a process that allows for the integration of local knowledge, conditions, and circumstances, with science-based national guidelines. We must remember that it is not only important to lower the risk to communities, but once the risk has been reduced, to maintain those communities at a reduced risk.

Further, it is essential that both the assessment process and the prioritization of projects be done collaboratively, with all local agencies with fire protection jurisdiction taking an active role.

## **Healthy Forests Restoration Act**

On December 3, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. The legislation is based on sound science and helps further the President's Healthy Forests Initiative pledge to care for America's forests and rangelands, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to communities, help save the lives of firefighters and citizens, and protect threatened and endangered species.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) seeks to:

- Strengthens public participation in developing high priority projects;
- Reduces the complexity of environmental analysis allowing federal land agencies to use the best science available to actively manage land under their protection;
- Creates a pre-decisional objections process encouraging early public participation in project planning; and
- Issues clear guidance for court action challenging HFRA projects.

The Yakima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed to adhere to the principles of the HFRA while providing recommendations consistent with the policy document. This should assist the federal land management agencies with implementing wildfire mitigation projects in Yakima County that incorporate public involvement and the input from a wide spectrum of fire and emergency services providers in the region.

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency Philosophy**

Effective November 1, 2004, a hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) eligibility. The HMGP and PDM programs provide funding, through state emergency management agencies, to support local mitigation planning and projects to reduce potential disaster damages.

The local hazard mitigation plan requirements for HMGP and PDM eligibility are based on the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, which amended the Stafford Disaster Relief Act to promote an integrated, cost effective approach to mitigation. Local hazard mitigation plans must meet the minimum requirements of the Stafford Act-Section 322, as outlined in the criteria contained in 44 CFR Part 201. The plan criteria cover the planning process, risk assessment, mitigation strategy, plan maintenance, and adoption requirements.

FEMA only reviews a local hazard mitigation plan submitted through the appropriate State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). FEMA reviews the final version of a plan prior to local adoption to determine if the plan meets the criteria, but FEMA will not approve it prior to adoption.

A FEMA designed plan is evaluated on its adherence to a variety of criteria.

- Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- Multi-jurisdictional Plan Adoption

- Multi-jurisdictional Planning Participation
- Documentation of Planning Process
- Identifying Hazards
- Profiling Hazard Events
- Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- Multi-jurisdictional Risk Assessment
- Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy
- Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- Implementation through Existing Programs
- Continued Public Involvement

## Appendix 6

### Representative Project Prescriptions

The following project areas were identified during the field assessments and interviews as potentially having several factors contributing to high wildfire risk as well as being representative of the types of projects likely to be pursued for grant funding. The intent is that these project prescriptions be as site specific as possible, but serve as templates for writing prescriptions for similar projects throughout the County. These projects/templates will aid land stewards in applying for grants specific to their property. The chosen project areas do not reflect the highest priority projects identified by the steering committee, but were written for communities with a high level of existing interest in implementation.

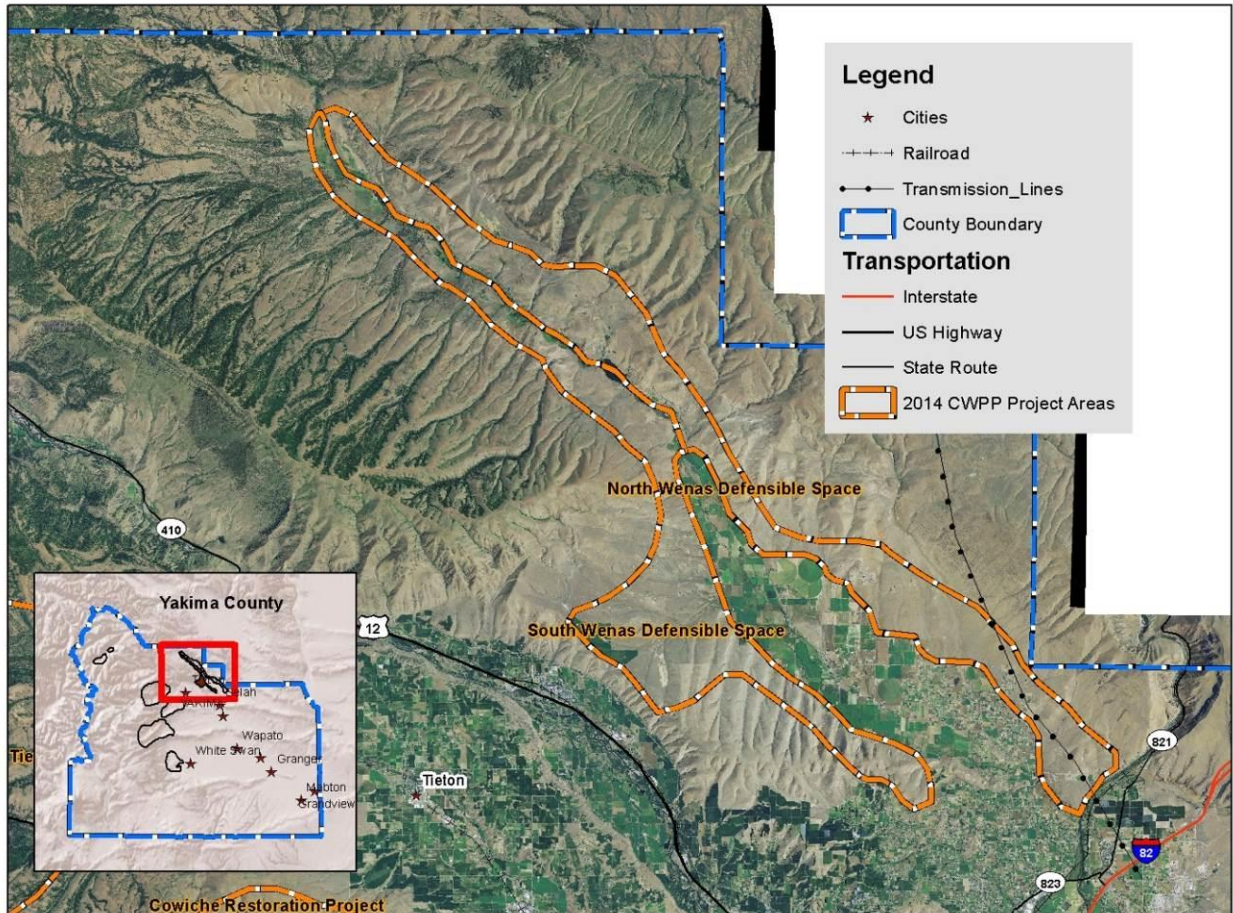
- South Wenas Defensible Space is located on south side of the Wenas Creek valley within the Wildland Urban Interface. The mixture of shrub and grass surrounding the community can create high intensity fires that spread quickly through the landscape.
- Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie HFT (Hazardous Fuel Treatment) is a cabin community with significant potential to be heavily impacted by fires due to the dense forest condition and heavy fuel loading on the ground. Additionally, the response time for firefighting personnel is long due to the remote location and limited access of the community. Bumping Lake is also an important water resource for the Yakima Valley. Watersheds (and other natural resources) can be heavily impacted by wildfire.
- Ahtanum Forest Health & HFT is a popular recreation area approximately 30 miles west of Yakima. It is a high elevation subalpine transition zone that is in need of restoration to improve forest health and prevent fire from threatening the community of Tampico.

The project areas were identified without regard for landownership boundaries; thus, site-specific prescriptions will require coordination and approval by the various landowners. The following descriptions provide as much detail as possible regarding the objectives, prescription, and unique nature of each project; however, exact acreages and site plans will be determined after consultation with the affected landowners. The prescriptions described in the following projects may be modified to suit other similar projects. Contact your local fire department or Firewise representative for assistance in developing goals and prescriptions specific to your project.

#### South Wenas Defensible Space

The South Wenas Defensible Space project area is dominated by dry shrub-steppe vegetation with a small amount of forest vegetation consisting of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, black cottonwood, aspen, and willows in the drainages. The natural shrub-steppe vegetation is comprised of native bunchgrasses, scattered shrubs, and invasive species (cheatgrass). Changes in plant composition drought, invasion of exotic species such as cheatgrass, and increased population density in rangeland areas has increased the frequency of fires and fire behavior characteristics in the area. The large amount of traffic through this project area creates a very high, human-caused ignition potential. The project area encompasses numerous private properties and some public lands. The South Wenas Road is the main access route in the area.

Records show that there have numerous fire ignitions in the Wenas area, particularly in the north end of the valley towards the county line. There was also a large fire in the foothills on the east side of the valley north of Selah. The historic fire return interval for this area is approximately 35 years.



## Project Prescription

The primary objective of this project area is to place fuel breaks in areas that can help to prevent the spread of fire from the rangeland into the community, create defensible space around homes, and increase community involvement and wildfire education. Reducing fuel loads can be accomplished through targeted grazing, but in extreme fire conditions the establishment of fuelbreaks will provide an important defense for homes and the community. To create a buffer between the wildland fuels to the west and the community, fuels in a fifty foot wide strip would be thinned to approximately 2.5 times a shrub's height between shrubs.

Roadside fuels will be treated to create fuel breaks throughout the community. This will also enable fire apparatus to gain access to structures if needed. This will be achieved through a thirty foot buffer in addition to the road width. The buffer can be done on one side of the road or thirty feet on each side of the road. Roadside treatments should include thinning shrubs to the same standards as mentioned above. Where appropriate, herbicides should be used to reduce invasive weeds along roads and around homes.

Homeowners should manage their property with Firewise principles in mind. This means that structures should have a three to five foot wide strip of non-combustible material around the perimeter of the structure. Shrubs that occur within thirty feet of the structure should be heavily thinned (2.5 times a shrub's height between shrubs or clusters of shrubs). Homeowners should also be mindful of anywhere that embers could accumulate and ignite such as patio furniture cushions, decks, roof vents, etc.

Education is often the most critical part in protecting a community such as that in the South Wenas project area. Often, having a trained individual perform a home assessment for a homeowner is sufficient. The home assessment determines a score which tells the homeowner the level of risk their property would face in the event of a wildland fire. The trained individual will then provide advice to the homeowner on how to minimize the risks identified in the home assessment.

A community workshop is another form of education that will benefit the community. The workshop will be scheduled for a weekend that allows as many people to attend as possible. Free lunch and a fire-resistant plant giveaway are a great way to get people to attend. Experts from Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Natural Resources, conservation districts, weed boards, consultants, interest groups, local businesses, and others from the community should be invited to attend.



Selecting a property to be a demonstration for other interested residents can also be a useful tool in educating a community. The demo property should be in a highly visible location and the property owner should be extremely motivated to maintain the property and provide encouragement to neighbors. Homeowners are often reluctant to remove trees and shrubs. Providing homeowners with a property that allows them to visualize what their property will look like often lessens fears about creating defensible space.

### **Bumping Lake & Goose Prairie HFT**

The Bumping Lake Summer Home Tract is made up of 12 privately-owned cabins established by lease on Forest Service administered land along the north shore of Bumping Lake. Bumping Lake is a natural lake that is used as a storage reservoir controlled by the Bumping Lake Dam. The Bumping Lake Resort's main lodge, also located along the north shore, was built in 1930 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These structures are accessed via Bumping Lake Road, which crosses the dam and is a narrow two-track road dead-ending in a small turnaround area at the western edge of the leased properties. The cabins at Bumping Lake are not accessible to emergency vehicles. The Bumping Lake Campground is located on the south shore near the dam and includes 57 campsites. The Campground is a popular recreational area.

Goose Prairie is an inholding of privately owned land in the William O. Douglas Wilderness Area two miles northeast of Bumping Lake. Goose Prairie is a mixed community of recreational and full time residents as well as Camp Fife. Camp Fife, a large Boy Scout camp, brings 200 scouts and staff members to Goose Prairie during the summer months. Goose Prairie and

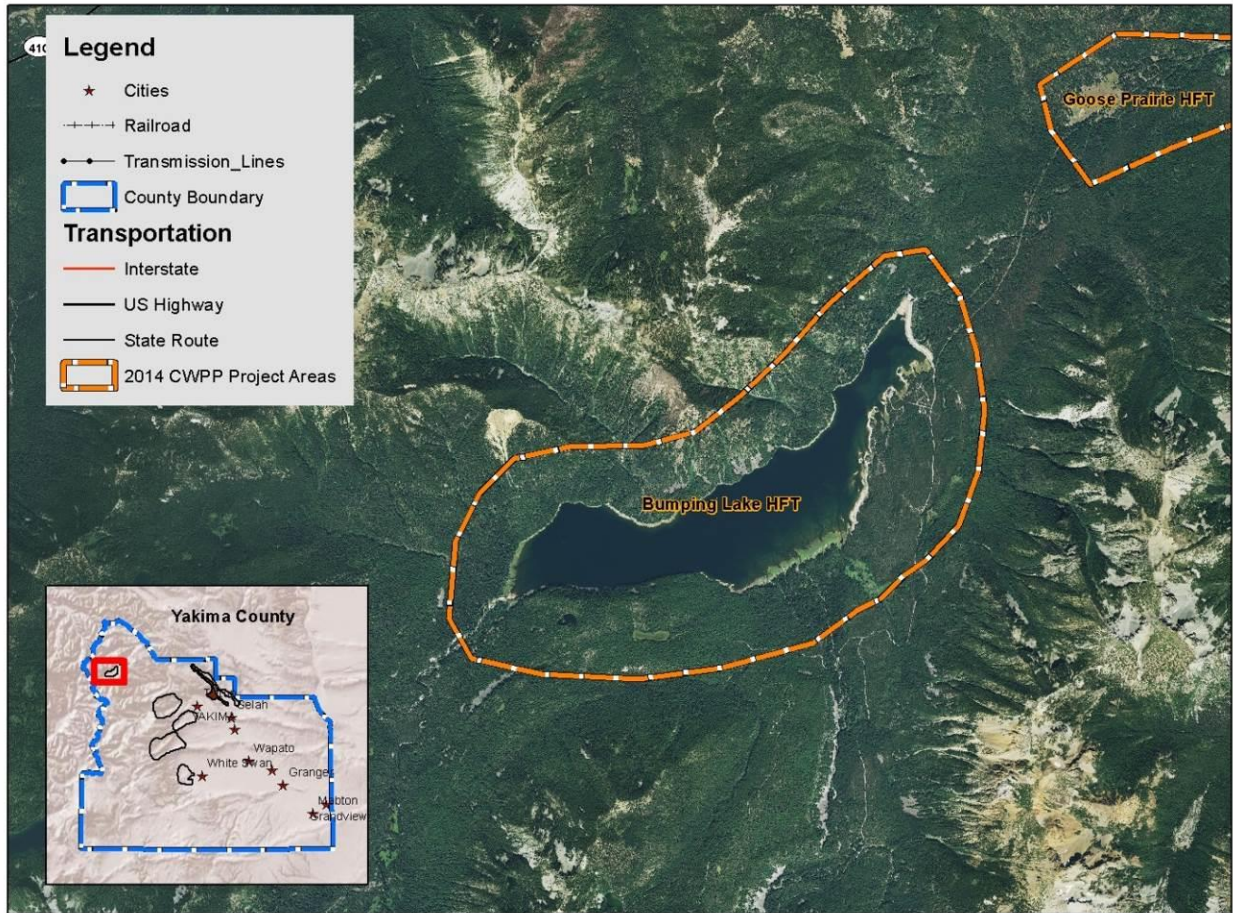
Bumping Lake are not within a Fire District and structural protection may not be provided. The Goose Prairie community has successfully implemented fuels reduction treatments using techniques such as biomass removal, thinning, chipping, mastication and mowing through the Highway 410 and 12 CWPP.

Telephone and electrical services are not provided at Bumping Lake or Goose Prairie and access is one-way in, one-way out on the Bumping River Road. The Forest Service and Washington DNR have completed fuels treatment along Bumping River Road in order to maintain it as an escape route. Additionally, the Forest Service recently implemented a small timber sale along the north side of Bumping Lake Road adjacent to the cabin sites; however, the residual slash has not been mitigated causing a high fire risk due to increased fuel loads. The forest roads in the area are generally rock or native surface and are only suitable for high-clearance or off-road vehicles.

The remote and scenic nature of these communities, while appealing, has a significant amount of risk to wildland fire. To maintain the feel of character of the surrounding wildlands, many of the property owners have encouraged growth of vegetation in close proximity cabins and other structures. Residents should be fully aware of this risk and prepared for the consequences of wildfire, especially since there is no organized structural fire protection. Defensible space treatments would help protect homes in the event of a wildland fire and conversely, would keep a structure fire from becoming a wildland fire.

The Bumping River drainage and the community of Goose Prairie are at extreme risk due to increased fire hazard as a result of the western spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle epidemic, a buildup of down and dead timber, thick vegetation around many of the structures, a high incidence of human and lightning caused fires, and a long one-way-in, one-way-out escape route. Grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*), mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) are dominant species in the area. The mature condition for this forest type is closed canopy with abundant ladder fuels and ground fuel loading. Locations of heavy accumulations of down and dead woody surface fuel increases the crown fire potential and the high flammability of the structures increase the likelihood of structure ignition during a wildland fire event. Analysis of the Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie area shows that prior to European settlement, the area would have burned at low to mixed fire severity approximately every 35 to 200 years. Currently, there is moderate to high departure from this historical regime indicating that forest conditions are likely denser than the historic reference condition. Additionally, records show that there have been multiple ignitions within and surrounding the project area and at least one large fire that occurred in the area directly north of Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie.





\*Important Note: Cabins and structures located on federally owned land are allowed and administered under special use permits. Federal laws and policies provide the structure and regulation of federal land use. Approval of activities on federal lands follows a distinct process not usually required of private land owners with structures on their own land. Cabin owners must follow the legal policies that the Naches Ranger District has developed to deal with certain types of vegetation. Authorization for vegetation treatment can be granted by the District Ranger. The permit holder is responsible for identifying and treating hazard trees and obtaining written authorization from the Forest Service for treatment of the trees. Hazard tree requests are initiated by submission of a written hazard tree request form. These forms, along with treatment guidelines, are available on the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/nachescabins>) or by request from the Naches Ranger District office.

### Project Prescription

For the structures and recreational facilities at Bumping Lake, implementation of forest health improvement treatments, fuels reduction projects, roadside fuels treatments, and establishment of fuel breaks will aid in reducing the wildfire potential in and out of the area. Fuels reduction projects designed to thin the overstory and remove ladder fuels will help reduce the rate of fire spread. Cleanup and slash removal from the recent timber sale adjacent to the cabin sites is a high priority for reducing fuels. Access into the area on Bumping Lake Road is extremely

limited for suppression equipment. Reduction of fuels along the road, improvement of the road to create an escape route, and removal of overtopping forest vegetation will lessen the risk to firefighters and residents and allow safer ingress and egress. Creating shaded fuel breaks strategically throughout the cabin sites will help protect residents from fire that may originate from another home site or back down the slope to the north. Structures should have a non-combustible material around the perimeter and extending out 3-5 feet from the structure. Trees and shrubs, thirty feet out from the structure, should be heavily thinned (15 feet between crowns for trees and 2.5 times a shrub's height between shrubs), and trees should be pruned to approximately ten feet.

Many of the homesites at Goose Prairie as well as road corridors have received fuels treatments. Maintenance of these sites to keep the fire risk low will be required every 3-5 years. Defensible space around untreated structures will help reduce the risk of fire spread to these homes as well. Creating a non-combustible buffer 3-5 from structures and thinning and pruning trees and shrubs within at least 30 feet will reduce a structure's risk of ignition. Driveways accessing homes should also be treated to remove adjacent fuels and create safe turnaround areas for emergency vehicles.

Within both the Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie project areas, roadside fuels could be treated to help create a fuel break between structures and the adjacent forestland. This would also enable fire apparatus to gain access. This would be achieved by at least a 10 foot buffer extending from the shoulder on each side of the road. This buffer could be increased on the north side of the road for added protection. Roadside treatments should include thinning trees and shrubs to the same standards as mentioned above. Ladder fuels should be removed to help prevent fires from getting into the canopy. Pruning would also help lessen the risk of a crown fire.



Forest health treatments designed to reduce mortality from insects and disease on National Forest lands in the areas surrounding the Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie sites would likely be very effective in reducing the negative impacts from wildland fire. Yakima County has been identified by the State as having severe forest health issues caused by spruce budworm and pine beetles.

A public education program can help residents work towards becoming a Fire Adapted Community and incorporating Firewise principles into their property's management. A community workshop is a form of education that would benefit the Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie communities. The workshop would be scheduled for a weekend to allow as many people to attend as possible. Free lunch and a fire-resistant plant giveaway are great ways to get people to attend. Experts from the Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, conservation districts, weed boards, interest groups, local businesses, and others should be invited to attend..

Selecting a property to be a demonstration for other interested residents can also be a useful tool in educating a community. The demo property should be in a highly visible location and the property owner should be extremely motivated to maintain the property and provide encouragement to neighbors. Homeowners are often reluctant to remove trees and shrubs. Providing homeowners with a property that allows them to visualize what their property will look like often lessens fears about creating defensible space.

### **Information Specific to Lease Holders:**

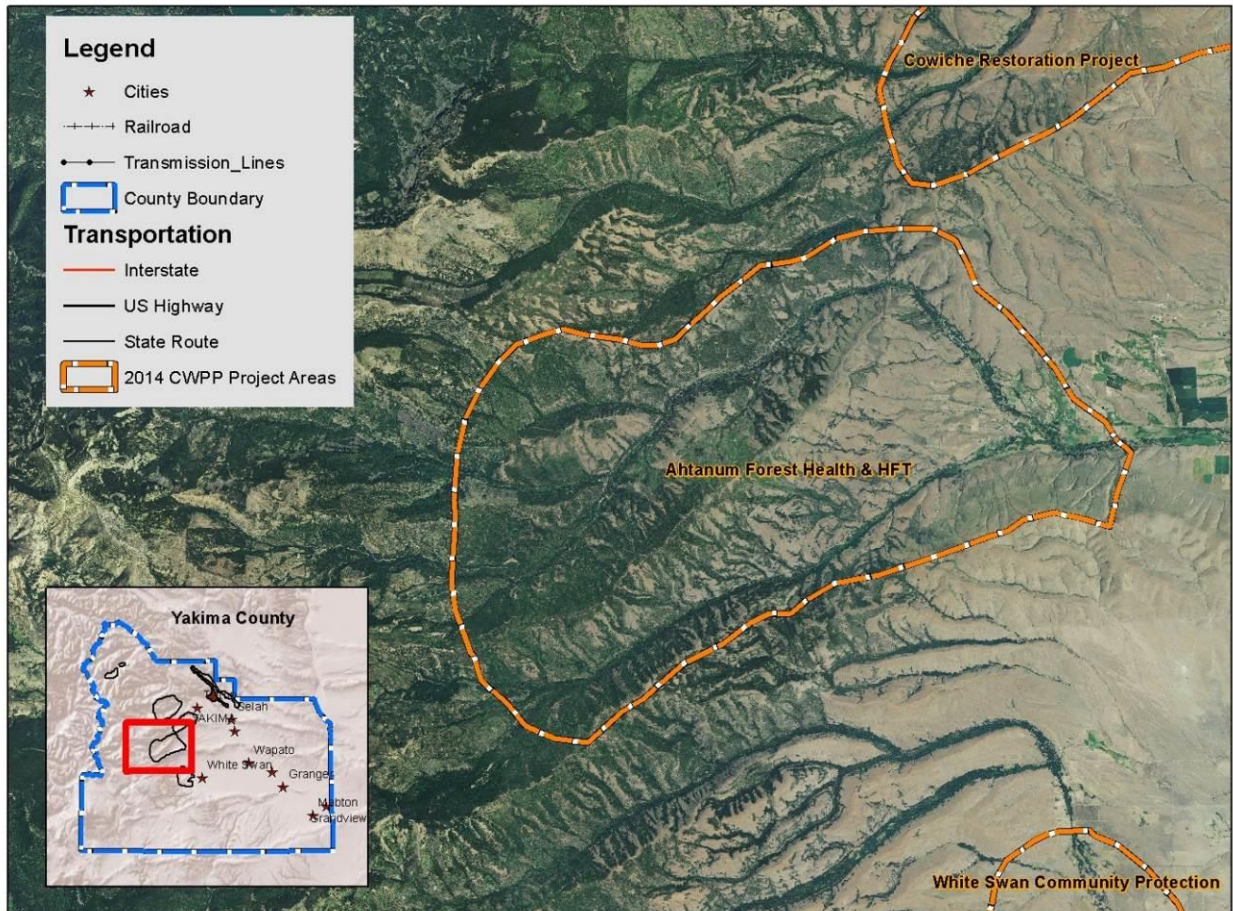
The recommendations for fuels treatments generally require approval by the authorized officer at the Naches Ranger District. The following is a list of regulations specific to lease holders in the Bumping Lake Summer Home Tract.

- Manipulate vegetation for the primary purpose of protecting property and mitigating safety concerns, such as the removal of hazard trees and the treatment/management of vegetation, approved by the authorized officer, to reduce fuel loading and to create defensible space for wildfire suppression purposes.
- Maintenance of roads and/or driveways providing access to recreation residence areas is normally the responsibility of the permit holders being served by the road. Widening of roads and driveways requires prior approval from the Authorizing Officer. Gravel and other material used for surfacing must be certified to be weed free. Contact the Naches Ranger Station for a current list of approved sources.
- Burning requires a burning permit that may be obtained at the Naches Ranger District. Check with the Ranger District for current burning requirements. Read the permit to insure that you are complying with all burning requirements.
- It is the permit holder's responsibility to manage slash and other fire hazards on their recreation residence lot. The permit holder can be held liable for costs associated with fire suppression activities. Guidelines for firewood, slash, dry grass and needles, and other woody debris are available from the Ranger District. In general:
- Removal of trees, living or dead, requires authorization from the Forest Service. It is rare that healthy trees are authorized for removal.
- Removal of living shrubs or grass requires authorization from the Forest Service.
- Removal of dead shrubs and grass can be done without authorization but must be done in accordance with applicable regulations.

### **Ahtanum Forest Health and HFT**

The Ahtanum Forest Health and HFT project area is primarily made up of state trust lands and is a popular recreation area that provides wildlife habitat and clean water as well as revenue to support public schools through timber harvest, grazing, and communications sites. The project area also includes intermixed parcels of privately owned land and is an important transition zone between high alpine forests to the shrub steppe ecosystem that leads to Tampico. The higher elevation (5,000 to 7,000ft) plant community is characterized of white-bark pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and alpine meadow plant species; moderate elevations (3,500 to 5,000ft) are characterized by Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch, and white pine; lower

elevations are characterized by ponderosa pine, mixed firs, oak, cottonwood, sagebrush, and various grasses (source: Ahtanum State Forest Recreation Plan, January 2010). The Ahtanum project area is experiencing the degradation of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and extreme fire behavior as a result of the past wildfire suppression, intensive harvesting, grazing, and mining that is common throughout Washington. The main access into the project area is the North Fork Ahtanum Road and Middle Fork roads. Road conditions range from paved county roads to primitive roads requiring high clearance vehicles.



## Project Prescription

The primary objective of this project area is to improve forest health and treat hazardous fuels in strategic locations throughout the project area in order to help restore the forest’s resilience to wildfire as well as insects and disease. These types of treatments would also protect the Ahtanum watershed from the negative effects of catastrophic fires and improve wildland firefighters’ ability to defend the community of Tappan. Improving and maintaining forest health by actively managing species composition and stocking levels will help develop more fire and insect resistant forest stands that will prevent significant resource losses and conserve and promote late successional forest structures and other unique ecosystems. The prescription for this type of work would be site specific, but would likely include both commercial and precommercial thinning, prescribed burning, and minor road development depending on

suitability. Implementation of slash management projects, roadside fuels treatments, and establishment of fuel breaks will aid in reducing the wildfire potential in and out of the area.

## Appendix 7

### Potential CWPP Project Funding Sources

#### **Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44122](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44122)

*To provide direct assistance, on a competitive basis, to fire departments of a State or tribal nation for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.*

#### **Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP)**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=135490](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=135490)

*The FY 2006 BZPP provides funds to build capabilities at the state and local levels to prevent and protect against terrorist incidents primarily done through planning and equipment acquisition.*

#### **Chemical Sector Buffer Zone Protection Program (Chem-BZPP)**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=135466](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=135466)

*The Chem-BZPP, provides funds to build capabilities at the State and local levels through planning and equipment acquisition.*

#### **Citizen Corps**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=56829](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=56829)

*The purpose of the Citizen Corps Program is to supplement and assist State and local efforts to expand Citizen Corps. This includes Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, establishing Citizen Corps Councils, and supporting oversight and outreach..*

#### **Citizen Corps Support Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=135192](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=135192)

*Support the mission to engage everyone in America in hometown security through the establishment and sustainment of Citizen Corps Councils throughout the United States and territories.*

#### **Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) FY2006 Description and Application**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=83219](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=83219)

*To ensure that law enforcement and emergency responder agencies, departments, and task forces can acquire, through direct assistance, the specialized equipment and training they require to meet their homeland security mission.*

#### **Community Disaster Loans**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44126](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44126)

*To provide loans subject to Congressional loan authority, to any local government that has suffered substantial loss of tax and other revenue in an area in which the President designates a major disaster exists. The funds can only be used to maintain ...*

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**Disposal of Federal Surplus Real Property**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=43990](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=43990)

*To dispose of surplus real property by lease, permits, sale, exchange, or donation.*

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**Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44100](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44100)

*To enhance public and selected audience knowledge of emergency management practices among State, local and tribal government managers in response to emergencies and disasters. The program currently consists of 32 courses. They include IS-1, Emergency ....*

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**Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Resident Educational Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44102](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44102)

*To improve emergency management practices among State, local and tribal government managers, and Federal officials as well, in response to emergencies and disasters. Programs embody the Comprehensive Emergency Management System by unifying the ....*

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**Emergency Management Institute Training Assistance**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44098](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44098)

*To defray travel and per diem expenses of State, local and tribal emergency management personnel who attend training courses conducted by the Emergency Management Institute, at the Emmitsburg, Maryland facility; Bluemont, Virginia facility; and ....*

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**Fire Management Assistance Grant**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44124](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44124)

*To provide grants to states, Indian tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (nonfederal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would ....*

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**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44130](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44130)

*To provide states and local governments financial assistance to implement measures that will permanently reduce or eliminate future damages and losses from natural hazards through safer building practices and improving existing structures and ....*

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**Hazardous Materials Planning and Training**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=133349](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=133349)

*Hazmat Planning and Training grants to state, territory and native American Tribal grantees.*

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**Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program - HDER**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=83222](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=83222)

*The goal of the HDER Program is to provide excess radiological detection instrumentation and other equipment, as well as training and long-term technical support, at no cost to emergency Responder agencies nationwide.*

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**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=118605](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=118605)

*Through the DHS National Preparedness Directorate, State and local organizations will receive approximately \$2.5 billion in grant funding to build capabilities that enhance homeland security.*

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**Interagency National Fire Plan Community Assistance**

[www.nwfireplan.gov](http://www.nwfireplan.gov)

*This grant provides a collaborative process for awarding funds to hazardous fuels reduction projects on non-federal land in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Eligible projects must be adjacent to Federal Land and identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) completed by February 6, 2009. Collaborated CWPP projects must implement fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface.*

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**National Fire Academy Educational Program/Harvard Fellowship Grant**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=133343](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=133343)

*Each fellowship enables a senior fire executive to attend and participate in the three-week "Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program" course that is held twice each year at Harvard University.*

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**National Fire Academy Training Assistance**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=44104](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=44104)

*To provide travel stipends to students attending Academy courses.*

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**Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=102626](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=102626)

*The PDM program will provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event.*

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**Rural Fire Assistance (RFA)**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=97736](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=97736)

*The RFA program provides cost-share grants for equipment, training, and fire prevention and mitigation activities for those rural/Volunteer fire departments (RFDs) that protect rural communities.*

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**Staffing of Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=133340](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=133340)

*The purpose of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants is to help fire departments increase their cadre of firefighters.*

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**State Fire Assistance Wildland Urban Interface Hazard Mitigation Grants**

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/grantopps.shtml>

*Funds are provided to reduce the threat of fire in the wildland urban interface including hazard mitigation, fuels and risk reduction, and information and education programs for homeowners and communities. This is a competitive grant process among the 17 western states and Pacific Island Territories.*



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**Volunteer Fire Department Assistance**

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/grantopps.shtml>

*Provides financial assistance to volunteer fire departments for organizing, training, and equipping rural fire districts.*

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**Western States Fire Managers Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program**

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/docs/PREV/CriteriaandInstructions.pdf>

*The focus of much of this funding is mitigating risk in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. In the West, the State Fire Assistance (SFA) funding is available and awarded through a competitive process with emphasis on hazard fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. This portion of the National Fire Plan was developed to assist interface communities manage the unique hazards they find around them. Long-term solutions to interface challenges require informing and educating people who live in these areas about what they and their local organizations can do to mitigate these hazards.*

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**Wildland-Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance**

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=43914](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=43914)

*To implement the National Fire Plan and assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires by providing assistance in the following areas: Provide community programs that develop local capability including; assessment and planning.*

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## Appendix 8

### Additional Information

#### Glossary of Terms

**Biological Assessment** - Information document prepared by or under the direction of the federal agency in compliance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife standards. The document analyzes potential effects of the proposed action on listed and proposed threatened and endangered species and proposed critical habitat that may be present in the action area.

**Backfiring** - When attack of a wildfire is indirect, intentionally setting fire to fuels inside the control line to contain a spreading fire. Backfiring provides a wider defensible perimeter, and may be further employed to change the force of the convection column.

**Blackline** - Denotes a condition where the fireline has been established by removal of burnable fuels.

**Burning Out** - When attack is direct, intentionally setting fire to fuels inside the control line to strengthen the line. Burning out is almost always done by the crew boss as a part of line construction; the control line is considered incomplete unless there is no fuel between the fire and the line.

**British Thermal Unit (Btu)** - A unit of energy used globally in the power, steam generation, and heating and air conditioning industries. In North America, Btu is used to describe the heat value (energy content) of fuels, and also to describe the power of heating and cooling systems, such as furnaces, stoves, barbecue grills, and air conditioners.

**Contingency Plans** - Provide for the timely recognition of approaching critical fire situations and for timely decisions establishing priorities to resolve those situations.

**Control Line** - An inclusive term for all constructed or natural fire barriers and treated fire edge used to control a fire.

**Crew** - An organized group of firefighters under the leadership of a crew boss or other designated official.

**Crown Fire** - A fire that advances from tree top to tree top more or less independently of the surface fire. Sometimes crown fires are classed as either running or dependent, to distinguish the degree of independence from the surface fire.

**Defensible Space** - The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structures fires. The perimeter as used in this definition is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction and or development, excluding the physical structure itself. The establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures characterize the area.

**Disturbance** - An event which affects the successional development of a plant community (examples: fire, insects, windthrow, and timber harvest).

**Diversity** - The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities as well as species within an area.

**Duff** - The partially decomposed organic material of the forest floor beneath the litter of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves.

**Ecosystem** - An interacting system of interdependent organisms and the physical set of conditions upon which they are dependent and by which they are influenced.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - According to the National Environmental Policy Act, whenever the US Federal Government takes a “major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment” it must first consider the environmental impact in a document called an Environmental Impact Statement.

**Exotic Plant Species** - Plant species that are introduced and not native to the area.

**Fire Adapted Ecosystem** - An arrangement of populations that have made long-term genetic changes in response to the presence of fire in the environment.

**Fire Behavior** - The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

**Fire Behavior Forecast** - Fire behavior predictions prepared for each shift by a fire behavior analyst to meet planning needs of the fire overhead organization. The forecast interprets fire calculations made, describes expected fire behavior by areas of the fire with special emphasis on personnel safety, and identifies hazards due to fire for ground and aircraft activities.

**Fire Behavior Prediction Model** - A set of mathematical equations that can be used to predict certain aspects of fire behavior when provided with an assessment of fuel and environmental conditions.

**Fire Danger** - A general term used to express an assessment of fixed and variable factors such as fire risk, fuels, weather, and topography which influence whether fires will start, spread, and do damage; also the degree of control difficulty to be expected.

**Fire Ecology** - The scientific study of fire’s effects on the environment, the interrelationships of plants, and the animals that live in such habitats.

**Fire Exclusion** - The disruption of a characteristic pattern of fire intensity and occurrence (primarily through fire suppression).

**Fire Intensity Level** - The rate of heat release (BTU/second) per unit of fire front. Four foot flame lengths or less are generally associated with low intensity burns and four to six foot flame lengths generally correspond to “moderate” intensity fire behavior. High intensity flame lengths are usually greater than eight feet and pose multiple control problems.

**Fire Prone Landscapes** – The expression of an area’s propensity to burn in a wildfire based on common denominators such as plant cover type, canopy closure, aspect, slope, road density, stream density, wind patterns, position on the hillside, and other factors.

**Fireline** - A loose term for any cleared strip used in control of a fire. That portion of a control line from which flammable materials have been removed by scraping or digging down to the mineral soil.

**Fire Management** - The integration of fire protection, prescribed fire and fire ecology into land use planning, administration, decision making, and other land management activities.

**Fire Management Plan (FMP)** - A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires and documents the fire management program in the approved land use plan. This plan is supplemented by operational procedures such as preparedness, preplanned dispatch, burn plans, and prevention. The fire implementation schedule that documents the fire management program in the approved forest plan alternative.

**Fire Management Unit (FMU)** - Any land management area definable by objectives, topographic features, access, values-to-be-protected, political boundaries, fuel types, or major fire regimes, etc., that set it apart from management characteristics of an adjacent unit. FMU's are delineated in FMP's. These units may have dominant management objectives and preselected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

**Fire Occurrence** - The number of wildland fires started in a given area over a given period of time. (Usually expressed as number per million acres.)

**Fire Prevention** - An active program in conjunction with other agencies to protect human life, prevent modification of the ecosystem by human-caused wildfires, and prevent damage to cultural resources or physical facilities. Activities directed at reducing fire occurrence, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fire risks and hazards.

**Fire Regime** - The fire pattern across the landscape, characterized by occurrence interval and relative intensity. Fire regimes result from a unique combination of climate and vegetation. Fire regimes exist on a continuum from short-interval, low-intensity (stand maintenance) fires to long-interval, high-intensity (stand replacement) fires.

**Fire Retardant** - Any substance that by chemical or physical action reduces flareability of combustibles.

**Fire Return Interval** - The number of years between two successive fires documented in a designated area.

**Fire Risk** - The potential that a wildfire will start and spread as determined by the presence and activities of causative agents.

**Fire Severity** - The effects of fire on resources displayed in terms of benefit or loss.

**Fire Use** - The management of naturally ignited fires to accomplish specific prestated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas.

**Flashy Fuel** - Quick drying twigs, needles, and grasses that are easily ignited and burn rapidly.

**Forb** - Any broad-leaved herbaceous plant that is not a grass, especially one that grows in a prairie or meadow

**Fuel** - The materials which are burned in a fire: duff, litter, grass, dead branchwood, snags, logs, etc.

**Fuel Break** - A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled.

**Fuel Loading** - Amount of dead and live fuel present on a particular site at a given time; the percentage of it available for combustion changes with the season.

**Fuel Model** - Characterization of the different types of wildland fuels (trees, brush, grass, etc.) and their arrangement, used to predict fire behavior.

**Fuel Type** - An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species; form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics, that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control, under specified weather conditions.

**Fuels Management** - Manipulation or reduction of fuels to meet protection and management objectives, while preserving and enhancing environmental quality.

**Gap Analysis Program (GAP)** - Regional assessments of the conservation status of native vertebrate species and natural land cover types and to facilitate the application of this information to land management activities. This is accomplished through the following five objectives:

1. Map the land cover of the United States.
2. Map predicted distributions of vertebrate species for the U.S.
3. Document the representation of vertebrate species and land cover types in areas managed for the long-term maintenance of biodiversity.
4. Provide this information to the public and those entities charged with land use research, policy, planning, and management.
5. Build institutional cooperation in the application of this information to state and regional management activities.

**Habitat** - A place that provides seasonal or year-round food, water, shelter, and other environmental conditions for an organism, community, or population of plants or animals.

**Habitat Type** - A group of habitats that have strongly marked and readily defined similarities that when defined by its predominant or indicator species incites a general description of the area; *e.g.* a ponderosa pine habitat type.

**Heavy Fuels** - Fuels of a large diameter, such as snags, logs, and large limbwood, which ignite and are consumed more slowly than flashy fuels.

**Hydrophobic** - Resistance to wetting exhibited by some soils also called water repellency. The phenomena may occur naturally or may be fire-induced. It may be determined by water drop penetration time, equilibrium liquid-contact angles, solid-air surface tension indices, or the characterization of dynamic wetting angles during infiltration.

**Human-Caused Fires** - Refers to fires ignited accidentally (from campfires, equipment, debris burning, or smoking) and by arsonists; does not include fires ignited intentionally by fire management personnel to fulfill approved, documented management objectives (prescribed fires).

**Intensity** - The rate of heat energy released during combustion per unit length of fire edge.

**Inversion** - Atmospheric condition in which temperature increases with altitude.

**Ladder Fuels** - Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata, thereby allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees with relative ease. They help initiate and assure the continuation of crowning.

**Landsat Imagery** - Land remote sensing, the collection of data which can be processed into imagery of surface features of the Earth from an unclassified satellite or satellites.

**Landscape** - All the natural features such as grasslands, hills, forest, and water, which distinguish one part of the earth's surface from another part; usually that portion of land which the eye can comprehend in a single view, including all its natural characteristics.

**Lethal** - Relating to or causing death.

**Lethal Fires** - A descriptor of fire response and effect in forested ecosystems of high-severity or severe fire that burns through the overstory and understory. These fires typically consume large woody surface fuels and may consume the entire duff layer, essentially destroying the stand.

**Litter** - The top layer of the forest floor composed of loose debris, including dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles, little altered in structure by decomposition.

**Mitigation** - Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

**Monitoring Team** - Two or more individuals sent to a fire to observe, measure, and report its behavior, its effect on resources, and its adherence to or deviation from its prescription.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** - An act establishing a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of humankind; to enrich the understanding of important ecological systems and natural resources; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

**National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS)** - The fire management analysis process, which provides input to forest planning and forest and regional fire program development and budgeting.

**Native** - Indigenous; living naturally within a given area.

**Natural Ignition** - A wildland fire ignited by a natural event such as lightning or volcanoes.

**Noncommercial Thinning** - Thinning by fire or mechanical methods of pre-commercial or commercial size timber, without recovering value, to meet state forest practice standards relating to the protection/enhancement of adjacent forest or other resource values.

**Notice of Availability** - A notice published in the Federal Register stating that an EIS has been prepared and is available for review and comment (for draft) and identifying where copies are available.

**Notice of Intent** - A notice published in the Federal Register stating that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared and considered. This notice will describe the proposed action and possible alternatives and the proposed scoping process. It will also provide contact information for questions about the proposed action and EIS.

**Noxious Weeds** - Rapidly spreading plants that have been designated “noxious” by law which can cause a variety of major ecological impacts to both agricultural and wildlands.

**Planned Ignition** - A wildland fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives.

**Prescribed Fire** - Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

**Prescription** - A set of measurable criteria that guides the selection of appropriate management strategies and actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

**Programmatic Biological Assessment** - Assesses the effects of fire management programs on federally listed species, not the individual projects that are implemented under these programs. A determination of effect on listed species is made for the programs, which is a valid assessment of the potential effects of the projects completed under these programs, if the projects are consistent with the design criteria and monitoring and reporting requirement contained in the project description and summaries.

**Reburn** - Subsequent burning of an area in which fire has previously burned but has left flareable light fuels that ignites when burning conditions are more favorable.

**Road Density** - The volume of roads in a given area (mile/square mile).

**Scoping** - Identifying at an early stage the significant environmental issues deserving of study and de-emphasizing insignificant issues, narrowing the scope of the environmental analysis accordingly.

**Seral** - Refers to the stages that plant communities go through during succession. Developmental stages have characteristic structure and plant species composition.

**Serotinous** - Storage of coniferous seeds in closed cones in the canopy of the tree. Serotinous cones of lodgepole pine do not open until subjected to temperatures of 113 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit causing the melting of the resin bond that seals the cone scales.

**Stand Replacing Fire** - A fire that kills most or all of a stand.

**Surface Fire** - Fire which moves through duff, litter, woody dead and down and standing shrubs, as opposed to a crown fire.

**Watershed** - The region draining into a river, river system, or body of water.

**Wetline** - Denotes a condition where the fireline has been established by wetting down the vegetation.

**Wildland Fire** - Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

**Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP)** - A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and selection of strategies and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire being managed for resource benefits. A full WFIP consists of three stages. Different levels of completion may occur for differing management strategies (e.g., fires managed for resource benefits will have two-three stages of the WFIP completed while some fires that receive a suppression response may only have a portion of Stage I completed).

**Wildland Fire Use** - The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in FMP's. Operational management is described in the WFIP. Wildland fire use is not to be confused with "fire use," which is a broader term encompassing more than just wildland fires.

**Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefit (WFURB)** - A wildland fire ignited by a natural process (lightning), under specific conditions, relating to an acceptable range of fire behavior and managed to achieve specific resource objectives.

**Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)** - For purposes of this plan, the wildland-urban interface is located defined in Section 4.5. In general, it is the area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland.

## **General Mitigation Strategies**

There are many actions that will help improve safety in a particular area; there are also many mitigation activities that can apply to all residents and all fuel types. General mitigation activities that apply to all of Yakima County are discussed below while area-specific mitigation activities are discussed within the strategic planning area assessments.

**Prevention.** The safest, easiest, and most economical way to mitigate unwanted fires is to stop them before they start. Generally, prevention actions attempt to prevent human-caused fires. Campaigns designed to reduce the number and sources of ignitions can be quite effective and can take many forms.

**Limiting Use.** The issues associated with debris burning during certain times of the year are difficult to negotiate and enforce. However, there are significant risks associated with the use of fire adjacent to expanses of flammable vegetation under certain scenarios. Fire departments typically observe the State of Washington closed fire season between July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. During this time, an individual seeking to conduct an open burn of any type shall obtain a permit to prescribe the conditions under which the burn can be conducted and the resources that need to be on hand to suppress the fire. Although this is a statewide regulation, compliance and enforcement has been variable between fire districts.

**Defensible Space.** Effective mitigation strategies begin with public awareness campaigns designed to educate homeowners of the risks associated with living in a flammable environment. Residents of Yakima County must be made aware that home defensibility starts with the homeowner. Once a fire has started and is moving toward a structure, the probability of that structure surviving is largely dependent on the structural and landscaping characteristics of the building. The Firewise Communities USA program is an excellent tool for educating homeowners on the steps to take in order to create an effective defensible space. Residents of Yakima County should be encouraged to work with local fire departments and fire management agencies within the county to complete individual home site evaluations. Home defensibility steps should be enacted based on the results of these evaluations. Beyond the homes, forest management efforts must be considered to slow the approach of a fire that threatens a community.

**Evacuation.** Development of community evacuation plans is necessary and critical to assure an orderly evacuation in the event of a threatening wildland fire. Designation and posting of escape routes would reduce chaos and escape times for fleeing residents. Community safety zones



should also be established in the event safe evacuation is impossible and ‘sheltering in place’ becomes the better option.

**Access.** Also of vital importance is the accessibility of homes to emergency apparatus. The fate of a home will often be determined by homeowner actions prior to the event. A few simple guidelines such as widening or pruning along driveways and creating a turnaround area for large vehicles, can greatly enhance home survivability.

**Facility Maintenance.** Recreational facilities near communities or in the surrounding forests such as parks or natural areas should be kept clean and maintained. In order to mitigate the risk of an escaped campfire, escape-resistant fire rings and barbeque pits should be installed and maintained. In some cases, restricting campfires during dry periods may be necessary. Surface fuel accumulations in nearby forests can also be kept to a minimum by periodically conducting pre-commercial thinning, pruning and limbing, and possibly controlled burns.

**Fire District Response.** Once a fire has started, how much and how large it burns is often dependent on the availability of suppression resources. In most cases, rural fire departments are the first to respond and have the best opportunity to halt the spread of a wildland fire. For many districts, the ability to reach these suppression objectives is largely dependent on the availability of functional resources and trained individuals. Increasing the capacity of departments through funding and equipment acquisition can improve response times and subsequently reduce the potential for resource loss.

**Development Standards.** County, city, and even fire district policies can be updated or revised to provide for more fire conscious techniques such as using fire resistant construction materials; improving roads, and establishing permanent water resources.

**Other Mitigation.** Other actions to reduce fire hazards are thinning and pruning timbered areas, creating a fire resistant buffer along roads and power line corridors, and strictly enforcing fire-use regulations. Ensuring that areas beneath power lines have been cleared of potential high risk fuels and making sure that the buffer between the surrounding lands is wide enough to adequately protect the poles as well as the lines is imperative.

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