

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Volunteer Fire Assistance

2015 Phase I Grant Program

Introduction

The **Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)** program is funded through the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). The objective of the VFA program is to improve the capacity and capability of rural and volunteer fire protection districts that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within or near federally managed lands. The Phase I grant program helps accomplish this by providing eligible Washington State fire districts/fire departments (applicants) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other fire equipment at a 50% reduced cost through the DNR Fire Cache.

To participate applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed below. Eligible applicants may apply by submitting a completed "Phase I Order Form" to DNR (see submittal directions below). If available funding is not sufficient to fund all orders, DNR will fund orders considering the priorities identified below.

Prices listed in the Phase I Order Form reflect a 50% price reduction, include sales tax, and are the cost to the applicant. Applicants may request to pick up orders at the DNR Fire Cache or have the equipment shipped. The cost of shipping is the applicant's responsibility and will be added to the applicant's order.

Eligibility

Applicants that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for Phase I grants:

- Respond to wildland fire on private, state, or federal lands, and
- Provide service to:
 - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
 - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less (funding must be used to benefit the rural community), and
- Have one of the following agreements currently in place with DNR:
 - Forest Land Response Agreement & Federal Grant Agreement, or
 - Fire District Assistance Agreement that includes "Attachment A - Assistance Grants"

Phase I Order Form Submittal

- Phase I orders will be accepted beginning March 10, 2015 through April 24, 2015. Orders submitted after 5:00 PM on April 24, 2015 will not be considered for funding.
- The Phase I Order Form is available on the DNR [Fire District Assistance](#) webpage. Instructions on use are found within the order form.
- Information requested on the "checkout" page of the Phase I Order Form must be filled out completely, the order form signed by an authorized representative, and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Email: fepp_assist@dnr.wa.gov (attach a scanned .pdf copy of the signed Phase I Order Form)
 - Mail: Resource Protection Division
ATTN: 2015 Phase I grant orders
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504
 - Hand Delivery to the address above.

Prioritization

DNR will consider the following when prioritizing grant applications for funding:

- Newly formed fire districts
- Date order is received
- Fire district/fire department protection includes communities within “high” and “moderate” risk areas identified in the Statewide Forest Action Plan (see map below)
- Mutual aid response agreements with DNR or federal agencies
- Past Phase I grant awards
- Volunteer firefighter membership

Award Notice & Order Delivery

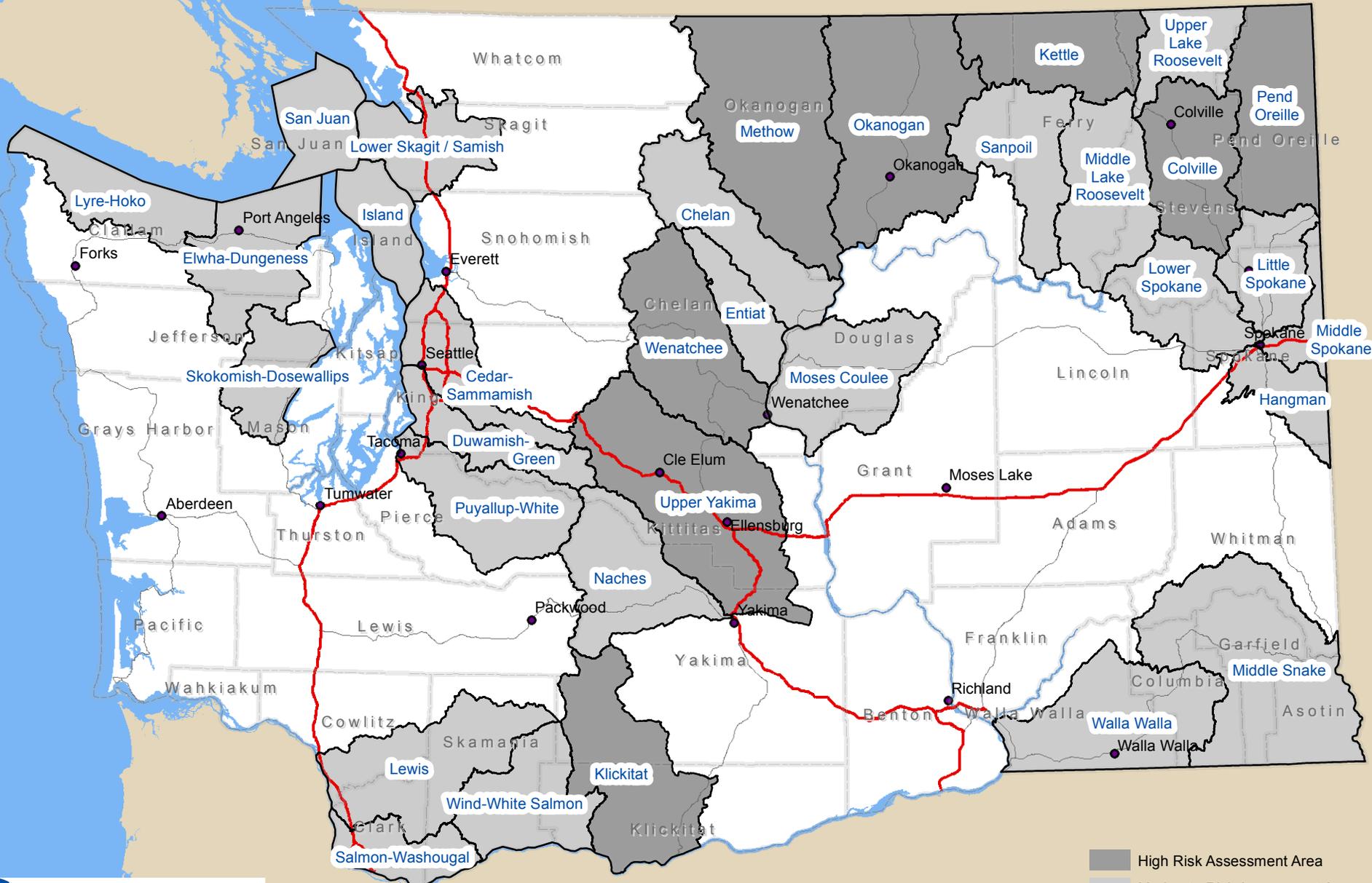
- Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 15, 2015.
- Orders are delivered typically within 4-6 weeks
- Questions regarding the grant program, application, and award should be directed to DNR Fire District Assistance (360-902-1300).
- Questions regarding the status of an order that has been awarded should be directed to the DNR Fire Cache (360-586-0361).

Federal Grant Equipment Purchases

Fire districts/fire departments are awarded Volunteer Fire Assistance funding under the terms and conditions of their current DNR agreement. Fire districts/fire departments receiving Volunteer Fire Assistance funding are required to maintain equipment accountability records for equipment items purchased over \$5,000 in value. Such items must be identified as property acquired under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act and Federal approval secured prior to future disposition. Fire districts/fire departments must comply with Federal regulations relating to equipment and supplies acquired by state and local governments ([7CFR 3016.32: Equipment](#)).

Statewide Risk Assessment Areas

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High Risk Assessment Area
 Moderate Risk Assessment Area