

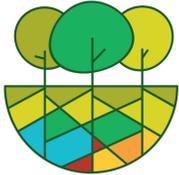


Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

Field Guide

January 2015





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The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network—along with the Fire Learning Network, Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency projects—is part of the “Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-Ownership of Fire” cooperative agreement among The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service).

For more information about the FAC Learning Network, please visit www.FACNetwork.org

about the FLN, please visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln

about TREX, please visit <http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

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Photo Credits

Front cover (left column, top to bottom): North Lake Tahoe FPD, FireWise of Southwest Colorado, Florida Forest Service, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative; center photo: Coalition for the Upper South Platte.



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Where We Work

The FAC Learning Network is complemented by work done under several other parts of the PERFECT agreement. For more, see the full Field Guide at <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/FLN-Field-Guide.aspx>

● Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network pilots

🌿 Fire Learning Network landscapes

○ Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency

○ Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (2014)



Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

Networking to Build Community Resilience to Wildfires

Launched in 2013, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is stewarded by the Watershed Research and Training Center and The Nature Conservancy. Together with the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, we share a vision to accelerate the adoption of fire adapted community (FAC) concepts across the nation using a tested learning network approach.

The FAC Learning Network is modeled after—and integrated with—the Fire Learning Network, which has been focusing on restoring fire-adapted landscapes since 2002. Learning networks are ideal vehicles for addressing complex issues such as wildland fire adaptation. The FAC Learning Network connects people and projects to avoid “reinventing the wheel,” and encourages the development and sharing of innovations.

In just a few years we have created a community of FAC practitioners that includes non-profit groups, fire departments, Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Firewise Communities boards, community collaboratives and others. Everyone in the network knows that they can call on their peers for advice, feedback and resources. Participants

routinely take tactics that others are using to help communities live with fire and adapt them for their own circumstances. Across the country, interest in the network is high.

Although creating fire adapted communities is itself one of the three broad goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, in reality helping communities live with fire involves all three goals:

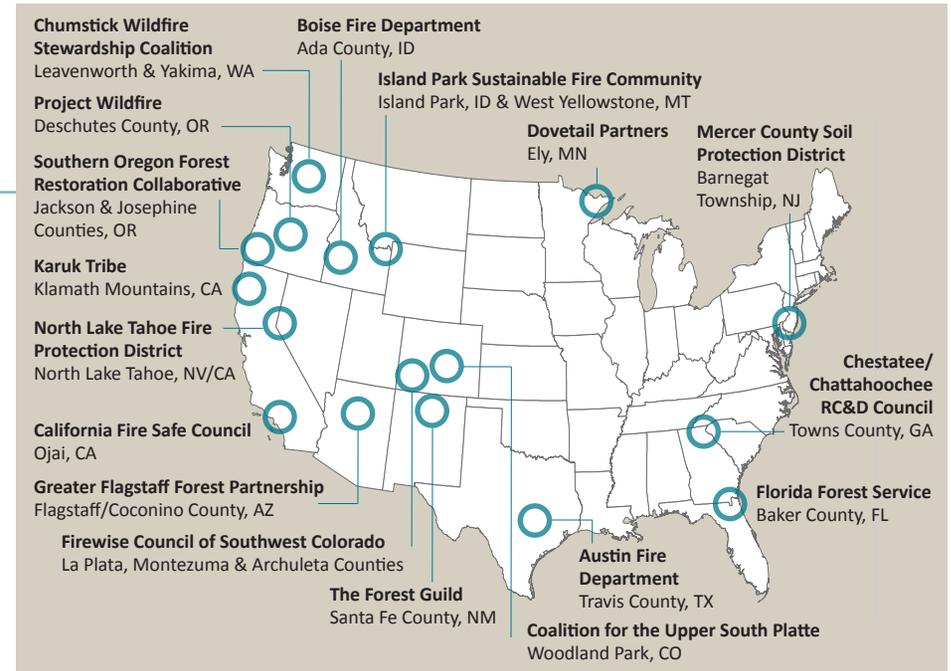
- Restore and maintain resilient landscapes in all jurisdictions;
- Prepare communities so they can live with and withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property; and
- Safely, efficiently and effectively respond to wildfires when they happen.

A Sampling of Projects Supported by the Network

Network participants are helping their communities become more resilient by taking action before, during and after wildfires. Some examples are:

- Creating and distributing an After the Fire Toolkit (Washington state)
- Developing and beta-testing a Fire Adapted Communities Self-Assessment Tool (national network)
- Holding a Citizen’s Fire Academy and Firewise Networking Day (Bend, Oregon)
- Hosting Forestry Field Days (Towns County, Georgia)
- Collaborating to complete the Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Texas)

As well as FAC outreach at community wildfire preparedness and Earth Day events, public demonstrations of defensible space and fuel treatments, and awareness campaigns through websites and social media—in communities across the country.



Seventeen pilot communities are currently active in the FAC Learning Network, with plans to continue expansion. Each community is building capacity and raising awareness about wildfire resilience through a host of preparedness, mitigation and recovery activities.



Learning together and working together: Field tours like the one near Orleans, CA (top), bring together residents, NGOs and agencies to learn from recent wildfires. Community work days, like the one near Woodland Park, CO (bottom), let “many hands make light work” while strengthening community ties.

Photos: WRTC; Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Values

- Adaptation is critical to a positive future.
- Collaboration and partnerships are keys to successful adaptation.
- Investment in local-level capacity, partnerships and responsibility yields the best outcomes.
- Supporting the coordinating function within communities is essential to leveraging the range of resources, institutions and individuals necessary to build fire adapted communities.
- Investing in learning across communities and geographies is a strategy that works at multiple scales, including:
 - Facilitating the adoption of best practices and innovations;
 - Building a community-of-practice to fuel inspiration and innovation;
 - Aggregating lessons learned to advise the design of programs and policies in support of fire adapted communities; and
 - Leveraging lessons learned to inform policy and resource allocation, as appropriate.



How Does the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Work?

Most of the 17 organizations leading community efforts in the FAC Learning Network receive modest funding from the program to support local FAC work and promote the expansion of FAC to new communities. A core team of “netweavers” and coordinators works directly with the network participants to foster connections among them. Network participants also meet in person annually, and quarterly through webinars. On a day-to-day basis, members use an invitation-only online workspace to share successes and resources, and to pose questions and engage in conversations.

In addition to netweaving, core team members support the deployment of a variety of local FAC tactics and strategies, and harvest learning from them. Capturing the network’s learning, they



In 2014, the Network met in Colorado Springs for several days of presentations, discussions, a field tour with the Fire Learning Network—and plenty of one-on-one networking. *Photo: TNC/Liz Rank*

produce quick guides, communications resources, and reports such as an annual State of Practice Report.

We reach out to a broader audience through our website and blog, where we share important resources and post regularly about key FAC issues and best practices, pilot community successes, resources and other topics of interest. Core team members and

other network participants also attend conferences and give presentations about FAC and the FAC Learning Network.

We are connected to the larger FAC community through the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition, which includes the Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of State Foresters, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, U.S. Fire Administration, NWCG WUI Mitigation Committee, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and The Nature Conservancy. Together we are helping homeowners, communities and land managers in fire-prone areas to prepare for and recover from inevitable fires—to “live with fire” safely.

www.FACNetwork.org

Top row: Communities from coast to coast are threatened by wildfires. *From left:* one of the many 2008 fires, as seen from Hayfork (CA) High School; 2011 Los Conchas Fire in Santa Fe National Forest, NM; 2007 Warren Grove Fire near Barnegat Township, NJ. *Photos: WRTC; International Space Station; NJ Forest Fire Service.*

Bottom row: Communities in the FAC Learning Network work at many different scales to mitigate wildfire risk, from promoting individual and neighborhood action to addressing landscape resilience and fire-related policies. At the very local scale, we have learned that demonstration sites can be a powerful tool for convincing homeowners to take action. *From left:* pilot community demonstration sites in Barnegat Township, NJ, Leavenworth, WA and Island Park, ID. *Photos: TNC/Wendy Fulks; Andrew Holm; TNC/Guy Duffner*



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

No summer has illustrated the need for resilient and prepared communities better than 2014. Throughout the state of Washington, more residents were on some level of evacuation notice than at any other time in the past 20 years. More structures—over 320 homes—were lost than in any previous Washington wildfire. Many people did not know what to do in the event of an evacuation or how to prepare their homes for wildfire. Businesses in eastern Washington were heavily impacted by highway closures. These events confirmed the need to develop evacuation and pre-attack plans to prepare our community for future wildfire incidents. CWSC will be working with local and Fire Learning Network partners to develop these plans.

In response to the 2014 fires, CWSC took action by creating an “After the Fire Toolkit.” This toolkit enables information on post-fire impacts to be disseminated during an incident, rather than later when the “teachable moment” afforded by the fire has closed. A National Weather Service representative distributed the trifold brochure from the toolkit at the first public meeting during the Mills Canyon fire. The willingness of the Washington Incident Management Team to create space for this important messaging was critical to its successful distribution. Post-fire impacts were highlighted in



Treatment demonstration projects to prepare for wildfires and a toolkit of resources to mitigate wildfire after-effects are among the projects helping make north-central Washington more resilient to wildfire. *Photo: Andrew Holm*

news releases from the incident, and the incident management team used parts of the social media element of the tool. In addition, “After the Fire” door hangers were given to the local fire district for distribution.

By participating in the FAC Learning Network, our communities and organizations have the ability to join forces, link resources and learn from the experiences of our network partners—all invaluable opportunities. We believe that mutual learning is critical to healthy collaboration and we strive to incorporate a strong learning component into all of our activities. As communities begin to adapt and respond to fire—and by changing the way we view fire—we have a chance to share lessons learned with communities across the nation. Lessons learned by others across the country benefit our programs, organizational capacity and constituency; our own lessons shared broaden the impact of the CWSC beyond the Chumstick.

In 2015 we will be working to:

- Enhance community resiliency through a series of wildfire preparedness workshops and meetings

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in
LEAVENWORTH, PLAIN and YAKIMA,
Washington

- with a wide array of local and regional stakeholders;
- Collaborate with stakeholders during on-the-ground fuel reduction and forest restoration work; and
- Coordinate biomass utilization projects and regional wildfire education.

WILDFIRE VISION

The Chumstick Coalition envisions progress toward a resilient community living with wildfire. Fire is a natural part of north-central Washington, but the 2014 wildfires changed the environmental, economic and social contexts in which we view fire. These changes present both tremendous challenges and tremendous opportunities. We are working to leverage these opportunities to create resilient governments, businesses and residents, all connected and collaborating to change the way we live and work in fire country.

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KEY PARTNERS

American Red Cross—Apple Valley Chapter
Bavarian Village Business Association
Cascade School District
Cascadia Conservation District
Central Washington Interagency Communication Center
Chelan County Fire District 3
Chelan County—Department of Emergency Management, Public Utility District, Public Works, Sherriff
City of Leavenworth
Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce
National Weather Service
South Central Washington Resource & Conservation District
USDA Forest Service—Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State University—Extension Forestry
Wenatchee Valley Humane Society
and local residents & landowners



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Project Wildfire's flagship program, FireFree, experienced a surge in participation in both the spring and fall 2014 events, breaking its previous records. The greater participation in the spring event suggests an increase in residents preparing for fire season before there is smoke on the horizon. The sharp increase in attendance at the fall event indicates that messages shared during the teachable moments of fire season did not fall on deaf ears.

Oregon State University's Extension Service debuted a new program, the Citizen's Fire Academy, that is helping to build local capacity in Deschutes County. Project Wildfire has been supporting this effort by aiding in the planning and facilitation of the curriculum. Residents who are enrolled in this program can act as liaisons for their neighborhood or formally volunteer with local agencies.

Many local Firewise stakeholders met at a Firewise Networking Day. This event produced great synergy among neighborhood "spark plugs"—highly-



FireFree volunteers at the Fryrear Transfer Station were part of a May 2014 work day that helped remove excess fuels to protect their communities.

Photo: Terri Cairns

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Community members discuss critical wildfire issues during a World Café session at the November 2014 Firewise Networking Day. Photo: Alison Green

engaged community members—that will lead to improved communication between Firewise communities and those working toward this recognition. Project Wildfire is also collaborating with the Ready, Set, Go! program to develop an Oregon-specific guide.

Looking ahead, the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy are working on a prescribed fire training exchange (TRES) that will make its Deschutes County debut this spring. TRES will be an excellent tool to increase the conversation locally about prescribed fire, communicate with the public about the need for forest restoration, and further the conversation around smoke management.

The amount of knowledge that the FAC Learning Network has generated for Deschutes County is more than Project Wildfire could have hoped for. Ideas for CWPP revisions, how to document home assessments, a successful networking day agenda, and other guides developed by FAC partners and shared through the network have given Project Wildfire motivation to

Project Wildfire

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in DESCHUTES COUNTY, Oregon

including 7 CWPP areas

Bend / East & West Deschutes County / La Pine / Redmond / Sisters / Sunriver / Upper Deschutes River Coalition

and 16 Firewise Communities

Aspen Lakes / Awbrey Glen / Caldera Springs / Cascade Meadows Ranch / Crosswater / Deschutes River Woods / Fall River Estates / Ponderosa Pines / Rimrock West / River Meadows / Spring River / Sunriver / Sunset View Estates / The Ridge at Eagle Crest / Tollgate / Wild River

implement similar ideas in Deschutes County. Project Wildfire is hoping to capitalize on the open communication within the network to increase awareness of fire adapted community concepts in the county. There are already some local residents working towards becoming more fire adapted without being aware of it. Being able to give those efforts a name, and to support them with ideas shared in the FAC Learning Network will provide lasting benefits in Deschutes County.

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KEY PARTNERS

Bend Fire Department / Brooks Resources / Brown & Brown Insurance / Bureau of Land Management / Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project / Deschutes County—Board of Commissioners, Community Development, Emergency Manager, County Forester / Deschutes River Woods / Deschutes Rural Fire Protection District #2 / International Association of Fire Chiefs / National Fire Protection Association / North Rim HOA / Oregon Department of Forestry / Oregon State University—Extension / Ponderosa Pines Property Owners Association / Rimrock West HOA / River Meadows HOA / Shevlin Commons / Singletree Enterprises LLC / Sisters Fire Department / Sunriver HOA / Sunset View Estates HOA / The Highlands at Broken Top / The Nature Conservancy / Tollgate HOA / Upper Deschutes River Coalition / USDA Forest Service / Western Region Cohesive Strategy—Chair, Committee Coordinator



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) works to build support and strategies for cohesive forest restoration across the dry forests of southwest Oregon. Our goal is to create resilient forests and communities, support coordinated forest planning, and maintain a vibrant forest management and utilization infrastructure. While our focus is on federal lands, the checkerboard landscape of the region encourages an all-lands approach to achieve integrated forest restoration goals.

Our recently-completed Illinois Valley Timber Sustainability Assessment identified an available, cost-effective, restoration-based federal timber supply that helped leverage state and national investments to enable the retooling and reopening of a local mill, which will provide 70 jobs to the rural community. The assessment worked within current federal forest management guidelines and land allocations, and received support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in its effort to conserve northern spotted owl habitat.

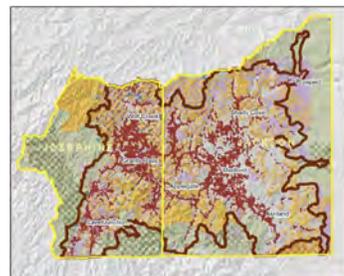
Working in the context of the Western Action Plan of the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy, SOFRC is working with two counties to complete county-based integrated fire plans. This process encourages coordination in local efforts to integrate the three Cohesive Strategy goals—resilient



About 15 miles east of Ashland, a plume rises from the Oregon Gulch Fire, which burned about 35,000 acres in summer 2014. Photo: George McKinley

forests, fire adapted communities and coordinated wildfire planning and suppression activity. Integrated risk assessments are key to the county plans, and will help determine priority needs and opportunities across the region. The year 2015 will be a benchmark for vetting the plans for community and agency support, as well as advancing associated action plans.

SOFRC has also completed a climate adaptation action plan for the Rogue Basin. This plan will help guide future forest restoration planning and



Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in JACKSON and JOSEPHINE COUNTIES, Oregon

implementation, given the expectation of shifting precipitation patterns and increased wildfire activity. It will also help inform discussions of the expected impacts of climate change in the region.

KEY RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

- Management recommendations based on historic fire return intervals and site productivity
- Reliance on a fine-grained approach for our fine-grained landscape
- Use of both fire and mechanical harvest to achieve and maintain ecological and economic goals
- Support for fire adapted community efforts
- Advocate long-term viability of critical habitats and species

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KEY PARTNERS

- Applegate Fire Plan
- Bureau of Land Management—Medford District
- City of Ashland
- City of Grants Pass
- Jackson County
- Josephine County
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State University—Extension Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service—Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

A map of Josephine and Jackson Counties (outlined in yellow) shows the extent of WUI (outlined in red) within the counties. Also evident is the large area occupied by communities considered at risk from wildfire (red areas); these include Grants Pass in Josephine County and Ashland and Medford in Jackson County. In the background, the checkerboard pattern of ownership can be seen.

Map: SOFRC



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Recent accomplishments in this landscape include the establishment of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRK), a collaborative that is working to improve forest resiliency and community safety. As part of the Fire Learning Network, this partnership has held a series of eight facilitated three-day workgroup sessions, and has reached agreement in principle for projects at the landscape scale.

Our current focus is on convening partners to ramp up the scope and scale of our planning and implementation capacities. We are improving mechanisms to obligate funds from the Forest Service to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the tribe to systematically progress our WKRK collaborative endeavors as a Cohesive Strategy Demonstration Area. More than \$1.1 million in funding was obligated in 2014 for NEPA planning and for completing NEPA-ready projects. Among the year's highlights was the fall Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, where 53 participants built their fire skills while treating 240 acres with fire. Our integrated approach to fire management has been highlighted in the Western Region Strategy Committee newsletter, the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Facebook page, and in many newspaper articles.

Collaborative leadership in a large, complex system presents challenges.



Smoke rising from low-intensity burns on the Nix unit during the October 2014 Klamath River TREX. Photo: Thomas B. Dunklin via Facebook



From left: Fire rejuvenating a patch of bear grass, a basket woven from materials that depend on fire, acorns. Prescribed fire in this landscape supports cultural values as well as community safety and forest resilience. Photos: Bill Tripp; USFS/Frank Lake

But we are progressing in a manner that we believe will produce tangible results for the long term. Seed money from the FAC Learning Network has been instrumental in convening the discussions needed to help our vision start to become a reality.

Our long-term goals include bringing fire back to the people in Karuk Territory. Fire as an ecological process is not currently fulfilling its functional role in this landscape. People have not been serving in their capacity as responsible stewards within ecological

Karuk Tribe

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in CECILVILLE, FORKS OF SALMON, HAPPY CAMP, ORLEANS, SAWYERS BAR, SEIAD and SOMES BAR, and with the KARUK PEOPLE in northern California

systems. We are trying to reverse that trend and revitalize the human-fire relationship so we can once again thrive as a people of place in our original homelands.

To help reach these goals, we are planning on gaining administrative access to the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) and Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) in the coming year. This will enable us to manage the qualifications of tribal, NGO and community volunteer personnel so the workforce that we are growing locally for the restoration and maintenance of fire resilient landscapes will also be able to respond to wildfires in a safe, effective, and consistent manner.

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KEY PARTNERS

Bureau of Indian Affairs
California Fire Science Consortium
Deer Creek GIS
Happy Camp Coordinating Committee
Happy Camp Fire Safe Council
Hayfork Watershed Research and Training Center
Inter-Tribal Timber Council
Karuk Tribe—Community Development Corporation, Dept. of Natural Resources, Emergency Preparedness Department
Klamath Forest Alliance
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Fisheries
Northern California Prescribed Fire Council
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department
Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
Salmon River Fire Safe Council
Salmon River Restoration Council
Salmon River Volunteer Fire and Rescue
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University of California, Berkeley
USDA Forest Service—Klamath NF, Shasta-Trinity NF, Six Rivers NF; Pacific Southwest Research Station
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service—Fortuna Service Center, Yreka Service Center
Western Klamath Restoration Partnership
Western Region Strategy Committee



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

With seven fire districts, five counties, and two states the Lake Tahoe Basin presents unique challenges for coordinating FAC activities. Since joining the FAC Learning Network, fire, land management, and regulatory agencies have strengthened partnerships by formalizing the role each plays in creating a Fire Adapted Community. The association of 15 organizations, called the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, recently completed the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. This strategy creates a framework for information exchange, resource sharing, and coordinated education and outreach across jurisdictional boundaries.

Until 2011, a non-profit organization provided substantial support to Lake Tahoe communities working to reduce fire risk. When the non-profit went bankrupt, it left communities without support and financial assistance. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is focused on rebuilding support functions for the public, and increasing their involvement in basin-wide decision making processes. Key to rebuilding is a



Senator Dianne Feinstein presents a proclamation honoring the release of the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy to the forest supervisor and fire protection district chief. Photo: USFS/Lisa Herron

project to review the factors that lead to a neighborhood's continued success, difficulty, or eventual disinterest. The process will identify the organizational strategies that the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team will promote in the future.

Failure gains value when participating in a learning network. Lake Tahoe organizations have shared their successes and challenges, and in turn have learned from others throughout the nation. Methods for sharing and collaborating are being adapted from the national program for use in regional networks. Participation in the FAC Network has helped build a culture where organizations are encouraged to take calculated risks that can lead to important breakthroughs and innovations in becoming fire adapted.



Actions from community work days to information tables at block parties, and from chipper days to conducting prescribed burns, are being offered to help communities prepare to live safely in a landscape with inevitable wildfires.

Photos: Tahoe Douglas FPD (left), North Lake Tahoe FPD (others)

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in LAKE TAHOE BASIN communities in Washoe and Douglas Counties in Nevada and El Dorado and Placer Counties in California

Wildfire is inevitable in the Lake Tahoe Basin, but catastrophic fire is preventable. Through FAC programs, the character of the community and the landscape is gradually shifting to become more fire-adapted. To continue the transition, the team is striving for an effective partnership of agencies and the public that can be sustained without the need for outside funding.

To provide cost-effective maintenance of fuels reduction treatments, Basin agencies seek to increase the use of prescribed fire, especially on private and local government land. The land is often adjacent to homes and businesses, and the understory burns are technically difficult to implement.

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KEY PARTNERS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection / California State Parks / California Tahoe Conservancy / City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department / Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department / Fire Public Information Team / Lake Valley Fire Protection District / Meeks Bay Fire Protection District / Nevada Division of Forestry / Nevada Division of State Lands / Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities / Nevada Tahoe Conservation District / North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District / Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District / Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team / Tahoe Regional Planning Agency / University of Nevada—Cooperative Extension / USDA Forest Service—Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Increased burning will be facilitated by: exchanging resources, knowledge, and training to build the skill base in the Basin; increasing structure and landscaping ignition resistance to allow understory fire to be safely applied nearby; and developing agreements and processes for burns that span federal, state, local and private ownerships.



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) is a state-wide nonprofit that provides wildfire education and outreach support and capacity-building assistance to organizations in California that are engaged in fire preparedness. This wide-reaching influence and support of local community groups makes us especially well positioned to spread innovative ideas from local California Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities through the FAC Learning Network, and to bring innovations back to our California partners.

For more than 20 years, CFSC has been a leader in California's fight to reduce the impact of wildfire. CFSC is recognized by state and federal fire agencies as a vital link to communities. Private corporations, including insurance and utility companies, have shown generous support for CFSC's work.

CFSC offers workshops and one-day conferences on fire and disaster prevention topics several times each year in locations throughout the state. Fire Safe Councils communicate regularly with CFSC to share information about local events and successful projects and outreach programs. In turn, CFSC offers networking and training opportunities that help the local groups continue their critical work in wildfire prevention and preparedness.

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Homeowners participate in home ignition zone assessment training organized by California Fire Safe Council. *Photo: CFSC/Katie Martel*

A key area of focus as part of the FAC Learning Network this year is to increase wildfire preparedness among residents in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) through development of an innovative mobile application. We will be expanding the Ojai Valley FSC's online home safety survey to create a mobile app assessment tool for Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities to use with homeowners. This tool will apply current technology to make the assessment process more convenient for in-field implementation and allow for easy communication of assessment findings to the homeowner.

We continue to advance networking among local Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities in California. In addition to the workshops and conferences, the CFSC website will be expanded. New website content will highlight successes of local FSCs and Firewise Communities, and an online

California Fire Safe Council

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working throughout the state of California



California Fire Safe Council staff manage a grants clearinghouse for the state, and work with applicants to ensure their success and help them meet their responsibilities as grantees. CFSC is also the state liaison for the Firewise Communities program.

forum will allow FSCs, Firewise Communities, grantee organizations and community groups to share tips, lessons learned and best practices.



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Nick Goulette (nickg@hayfork.net).

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KEY PARTNERS

CAL FIRE
National Fire Protection Association—
Firewise
Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
USDA Forest Service



Attendees visit exhibitors at the 2014 Fire Summit, which was hosted by the Southern California Regional Area Taskforce and sponsored by California Fire Safe Council. *Photos: CFSC*

CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MISSION

Mobilizing Californians to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) is a long-standing collaborative representing numerous academic, environmental and private organizations as well as municipal, county, state and federal agencies. Since 1998, GFFP has endeavored to increase community protection through research and demonstration of various approaches to restore natural ecosystem structure, function and composition in the ponderosa pine forests surrounding Flagstaff, Arizona. GFFP has helped lead a shift in public understanding and support for proactive forest management designed to promote the safety and sustainability of our community and forests.

In 2012, City residents chose not to be helpless victims in the face of inevitable wildfire, but instead voted with overwhelming support (74 percent) to spend municipal bond money to fund forest treatments on state and federal land that would reduce risks of severe wildfires and minimize post-fire impacts such as flooding. GFFP's work to advance the goals of the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) is well aligned with FAC and the Cohesive Strategy.

GFFP hosted and participated in numerous events in 2014 promoting the common goals of FAC, the FWPP and the Partnership. Events included numerous community meetings, open



City of Flagstaff viewed from the steep, rocky slopes of the Dry Lake Hills. Photo: FWPP/Mark Brehl

houses and activities associated with the annual Flagstaff Festival of Science, including the Science in the Park Festival, Forest Fires & Floods Hike into the Dry Lake Hills and a Brown Bag Lunch detailing the history of our local forest ecosystems and the current and future efforts being planned to create sustainable communities and resilient forests.

GFFP recently collaborated with the Arizona Rural Policy Institute, City of Flagstaff and Ecological Restoration Institute on the FWPP Cost Avoidance Study. The study conservatively estimates the FWPP's proactive funding of \$10 million was a sound investment considering it will avoid between \$552 million and \$1.2 billion in potential damages; not to mention the scenic and spiritual loss the community would endure.

Helping initiate discussions, planning efforts and permitting with the Navajo Nation, GFFP facilitated the Flagstaff Fire Department's Wildland Fire Management Division meadow restoration project, eliminating pine encroachment

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in the GREATER FLAGSTAFF AREA COMMUNITY of northern Arizona

on a 140-acre tribal in-holding in the middle of the Dry Lake Hills (FWPP) area that is surrounded by the Coconino National Forest. A two-panel log kiosk was built and installed on the property to host project details, parcel history and forest/fire management information.

In 2015 we will continue to promote FAC at various community events, host field trips and produce videos related to prescribed fire and smoke management. We are also working on signs recognizing property owners working proactively to reduce wildfire risk, and

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KEY PARTNERS

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Prescribed Fire Council
Arizona State Forestry Division
Centennial Forest
City of Flagstaff
Coconino County
Coconino County Conservation District
Flagstaff Fire Department
Friends of Northern Arizona Forests
Northern Arizona University—
Ecological Restoration Institute
Northern Arizona University—School
of Forestry
Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council
Southwest Fire Science Consortium
The Nature Conservancy

a community wildfire preparedness contest to be held in conjunction with the 2015 National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

MORE INFORMATION

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership <http://www.gffp.org/>
Flagstaff FD Wildland Fire Management Division <http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/wildlandfire>
Coconino National Forest <http://www.fs.usda.gov/COCONINO>
Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project <http://www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org/>



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Public and stakeholder engagement is a high priority for this partnership, as is building capacity to implement FAC projects in northern New Mexico. In 2014 we made tremendous strides on both fronts.

The Forest Guild joined the New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit planning team in the spring and helped plan the three-day event around the theme of fire adapted communities. The summit drew more than 110 people from around the state. Throughout the year, the FACLN continued to work with the City of Santa Fe FAC Coalition and the budding Wildfire Network. The Nature Conservancy invested in local FAC efforts to expand impact by convening two peer learning workshops in the Rio Grande Water Fund region. In October, the first workshop brought together participants from northern New Mexico and



Kids gather around a matchstick “forest fire” demonstration at an Earth Day outreach event in Santa Fe. *Photo: Forest Guild*



A prescribed fire training exchange (TRES) in October helped build local capacity while treating fuels on 255 acres near Black Lake

Photo: NMSLO/Mark Meyers

a FAC leader from southwest Colorado to bring a fresh outside perspective.

Other outreach efforts have included:

- overhauling the www.fireadapted-newmexico.org website based on feedback from FAC partners;
- discussing FAC issues on the local radio program Radio Café;
- giving FAC presentations at the Southwest Fire Science Consortium Forest Resiliency conference—interviews here resulted in three articles in major media outlets mentioning FAC concepts—and “Wildland Smoke in the Air—What Does it Mean to ME?” workshop;
- presenting the webinar “Working Across Fence Lines: Multijurisdictional Planning and Prescribed Fire,” which shared experiences from two Forest Guild projects in northern New Mexico.

Combining outreach and implementation, 55 rural youth worked in eight crews across six districts on three national forests on FAC and conservation projects like fuels reduction and prescribed fire line construction.

To expand and leverage FACLN investments, the Guild secured three

The Forest Guild

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in SANTA FE COUNTY and MCKINLEY COUNTY, New Mexico

and the communities of Angel Fire / Black Lake / Breadsprings / Dixon / La Cueva / Penasco / Santa Fe / Timber Lake Ranches



The fall TRES combined training, treatments and outreach: a local reporter conducted a video interview with the NM State Lands Forester during ignitions.

Photo: NMSF/Mary Stuever

new funding sources in 2014. A three-year FAC-targeted implementation project supported by the Forest Service Collaborative Forest Restoration Program will restore forests and improve watershed conditions across 350-450 acres in the Rio Trampas watershed. Implementation of the new FAC self-assessment tool is part of this project and is already underway. A home risk reduction grant from the New Mexico Association of Counties will be used to

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KEY PARTNERS

Angel Fire—Fire Department
Black Lake—Fire Department
Chris’s Tree Service
City of Santa Fe—Fire Department
Fire Services Support, LLC
La Cueva Road
McKinley County
New Mexico Association of Counties
New Mexico State Forestry
New Mexico State Land Office
Santa Fe County
Santa Fe County Commissioners
The Nature Conservancy—New Mexico
USDA Forest Service—Santa Fe National Forest (Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District)

implement actions recommended in the 2013 McKinley County CWPP; this cost-share grant will help 30-40 homeowners reduce their risk. And FAC partner Fire Service Support is working on a project for the New Mexico Association of Counties that will expand the tablet-based home-site risk assessment program in Santa Fe County into the high-risk community of Turquoise Trail by training volunteer firefighters to do assessments.



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Since joining the FAC Network, FireWise of Southwest Colorado has hosted and participated in numerous stakeholder events to discuss, plan and implement activities across its three-county area. These included taking part in public meetings hosted by La Plata County to support new driveway standards and a meeting with the county to discuss revising its CWPP; hosting a wildfire forum in Montezuma County (where 30 people discussed opportunities for increasing wildfire preparedness); and a workshop on FAC and wildfire preparedness for realtors, insurance agents and residents. There were also follow-up meetings for two working groups that emerged from a wildfire collaboration conference in May: The Regional Council Working Group met to discuss creating a group to recommend priority areas for treatment, guide grant applications and address regional issues. The Regional Biomass Working Group is addressing opportunities for developing a biomass industry in the region. In September, FireWise of Southwest Colorado's executive director took part in a New Mexico FAC peer-learning workshop, sharing learning between the regions.

Other recent accomplishments include the addition of a new Firewise Community, bringing the area's total to eight. FireWise has also been working with the landfill and other partners in



Southwest Open High School students sport the FireWise Helping Hands t-shirts they got for volunteering at a low-income pilot project work day. They helped install screening below decks, lay weed-barrier fabric and gravel near homes, plant fire-resistant shrubs and de-construct a carport. *Photo: Rita Strammel*

Archuleta County to make three slash depot locations into sustainable operations. FireWise has also championed many other FAC-related projects that support regional wildfire risk reduction. These include:

- development of a *Best Practices for Homeowners* directory,
- a low-income pilot project in Montezuma County that included creation of a fuel break to protect a 96-unit mobile home park and fuels reduction and hardening of homes on four individual properties,
- a new partnership with the La Plata County GIS Department to map fuels-reduction efforts across the region, and
- a collaborative effort that conducts fuels mitigation work on conservation easements near communities with CWPPs or FireWise Ambassadors.

Plans are underway for wildfire preparedness events in all three counties in 2015. FireWise will also host a wildfire collaboration conference, and is working with the San Juan National Forest to highlight a 1,100-acre prescribed burn conducted adjacent to a Firewise Community. The FAC Learning Network's self-assessment tool will also be introduced in all three counties.

FireWise of Southwest Colorado

HUB ORGANIZATION



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Working in Montezuma, La Plata, and Archuleta Counties in southwest Colorado

REGIONAL PARTNERS

American Red Cross / BLM—Southwest District Field Office / Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control / Colorado Division of Homeland Security / Colorado State Forest Service / Farmers Insurance / Mountain Studies Institute / NRG Consulting / San Juan Citizens Alliance / San Juan Mountains Association / Short Forestry / Southern Rockies Fire Science Network / Southwest Conservation Corps / State Farm Insurance / University of Colorado, Boulder—Institute of Behavioral Sciences / USDA Forest Service—Rocky Mountain Research Station, San Juan NF / Wildfire Mitigation Professionals' Association

ARCHULETA COUNTY PARTNERS Archuleta County— Administrator, Board of County Commissioners, County Landfill, OEM / BIA—Southern Ute Agency / Colorado State University—Archuleta County Extension Office / Los Pinos FPD / Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District / Pagosa FPD / Pagosa Springs High School / San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership / Stollsteimer Watershed Group / USDA Forest Service—San Juan NF (Pagosa RD) / USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

LA PLATA COUNTY PARTNERS BIA—Southern Ute Agency / City of Durango / Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad / Durango FPD / Fort Lewis Mesa FPD / La Plata Conservation District / La Plata County— Board of County Commissioners, OEM, Planning and GIS Depts. / La Plata Electric Association / La Plata Open Space Conservancy / Los Pinos FPD / San Juan RC&D / Upper Pine River FPD / USDA Forest Service—San Juan NF (Columbine RD)

MONTEZUMA COUNTY PARTNERS BIA—Ute Mountain Ute Agency / Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife / Cortez FPD / Cortez Open Learning High School / Dolores County OEM / Empire Electric Association / Four Corners Bar Association / Four Corners Home Builders Association / K&N Fuels Management / Lewis-Arriola FPD / Mancos FPD / Montelores Habitat Partnership Program / Montezuma County— Administrator, Board of County Commissioners, County Landfill, OEM / National Park Service—Mesa Verde National Park (Fire Management) / Pleasant View FPD / Tri-State Generation and Transmission Cooperative / USDA Forest Service—Dolores Public Lands Office / Ute Mountain Ute Fire and Rescue / Western Area Power Administration

Left: The 2014 FireWise chipper rebate program provided almost \$20K in rebates to 91 residents and HOAs, who matched with \$107K and 4,065 hours of work. *Photo: P. Wilson*
Right: A 2014 tour of the 2012 Weber Fire. Due to education, mitigation and evacuation planning laid out in their CWPP, no homes were damaged in the 10,000-acre fire and all residents were evacuated safely.

Photo: Cortez Journal/Jim Mimiaga



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Fire Adapted Communities

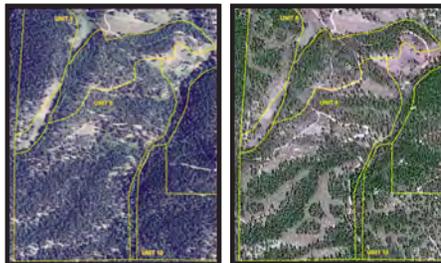
LEARNING NETWORK

To successfully implement the Front Range Fire Adapted Communities Program, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) focuses on areas of high to extreme fire risk and critical infrastructure.

In the Upper South Platte watershed, CUSP works to tie together completed and planned forest management in the watershed to increase the overall impact on ecosystem resilience and wildfire risk reduction. This program of work includes

- implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plan and landscape-scale activities that reduce hazardous fuels;
- increasing forest resiliency;
- raising community awareness, preparedness and ownership; and
- building local capacity for both biomass utilization and project management and implementation.

CUSP works in areas adjacent to projects that are planned, already



Before and after forest restoration work completed in the Woodland Park area. *Photos: CUSP*

v. 16 Jan 15



Logs from a thinning project are stacked for sale. Whenever possible, CUSP sells logs to local businesses to offset treatment costs. *Photo: CUSP*

underway, or have been recently completed on federal, state and local lands, utilities lands and private properties. This coordinated work increases the overall impact on ecosystem resilience, wildfire risk reduction and watershed protection.

Projects in at-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones along the Colorado Front Range are also a priority. Having completed over 2000 acres in 2014, CUSP has begun to expand its area of influence, and has begun mentoring several other non-profit organizations facing the same challenges. CUSP's biomass facility, located in Fairplay, is now fully operational, providing wood chips from fuel management projects to heat the Fairplay School.



Knowing that the only way to protect our communities is by working together, CUSP volunteers lend a hand. *Photo: CUSP*

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in WOODLAND PARK and along the Colorado Front Range

In 2015 CUSP will undertake several prescribed burns, focusing efforts in the northern watershed. With a skilled staff of 25 and several new pieces of equipment, CUSP is well positioned to even more effectively implement forest management projects. Participation in the FAC network affords staff opportunities to discuss with others in the fire and land management field both challenges and new approaches to creating more resilient communities. The FAC network has also raised the organization's national visibility, extending its impact.

Looking ahead, CUSP will be focusing on risk reduction in the home ignition zone, influencing policy and tax code related to the WUI, identifying and securing sustainable long-term funding sources, and increasing awareness of the Front Range FAC program.



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KEY PARTNERS

Black Forest Together / City of Woodland Park / Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program / Colorado Department of Natural Resources / Colorado Parks and Wildlife / Colorado Springs Utilities / Colorado State Forest Service / Florissant Fire Protection District / Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership / Help the Needy / Home Owners Associations / Mile High Youth Corps / Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District / Palmer Land Trust / Park County / Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners / Teller County / The Nature Conservancy / U.S. Air Force Academy / USDA Forest Service / USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service / Wood Ministry



A CUSP crew burns piled slash in the snow, to remove excess fuels from the forest when the risk of wildfire is at its lowest. *Photo: CUSP*

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Boise Fire Department is engaged in many FAC activities supported by a variety of grants and through its participation in the FAC Learning Network. Most work directly tied to the FAC Learning Network will begin in 2015.

In the meantime, the Boise Fire Department has been busy with many wildfire mitigation projects, including managing numerous projects supported by its partner, the Southwest Idaho RC&D. These include creating fuel breaks through sagebrush thinning, goat grazing, herbicide applications and re-seeding, and a small ancillary erosion control project. Another project funded by the RC&D is the acquisition and installation of a Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) in the Boise Front, which includes a VHF radio that can alert firefighters in real time to changing weather conditions during wildland firefighting operations. City of Boise Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant funding has supported chipping of hazardous fuels for homeowners in targeted neighborhoods throughout the Boise wildland-urban interface. In late 2014 the Boise Fire Department learned that it will probably get partial funding, through a Western States Fire Grant, to acquire remote sensing (LiDAR) data to improve assessment and planning.

Sharing what has been learned is also important to the department and



Goat grazing is one of the treatments being used to reduce fuels. Above, before and after grazing on a slope in the Oregon Trail area.

Photo: Boise Fire Dept./M. Beaudoin

its partners. For example, a tour for the Public Lands Foundation examined an area where a fatal wildland fire occurred, and where several years of phased wildfire mitigation work have taken place to reduce future risks. A similar, more in-depth version of this tour will be part of the IAWF International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference taking place in April 2015 in Boise. The Boise Fire Department also shares its expertise in classes at the National Interagency Fire Center and at Boise Fire Headquarters, teaching segments on FAC, Ready, Set, Go!, Firewise and local wildfire mitigation activities to professional firefighters.

Through participation in the 2014 FAC Learning Network workshop in Colorado Springs, the Boise Fire Department made new contacts and learned a great deal about wildfire mitigation initiatives around the country. The department has found that using FAC concepts and messaging helps more efficiently streamline and tailor mitigation and public outreach

Boise Fire Department

HUB ORGANIZATION

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Working in ADA COUNTY, Idaho

City of Boise communities
 Boise Heights NA / Collister NA / Cove East / Dallas Harris Estates / East End NA / Harris Ranch NA / Highland NA / Homestead Rim / Hulls Grove / Oregon Trail Heights / River Heights / Surprise Valley

Firewise Communities
 Briarhill / Central Foothills / Columbia Village / Morning-side Heights / Quail Ridge / Warm Springs Mesa

City of Eagle
 Hidden Springs Town Association



Participants in Public Lands Foundation tour of the Oregon Trail pause at an interpretive point. Signage with take-home flyers is used to share information about mitigation projects and increase communication about fire adapted communities concepts.

Photo: Boise Fire Dept./C. Colwell

activities, and provides opportunities to share experiences with others. The Boise Fire Department's long-term FAC goal is to bring in additional partners

and provide consistent, effective countywide public outreach, in addition to ongoing boots-on-the-ground wildfire mitigation activities.



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (IPSFC) is a collaborative group consisting of concerned citizens as well as representatives from private businesses; non-profit organizations; and local, state and federal government agencies. The IPSFC is working hard to help make Island Park and West Yellowstone fire adapted communities. We are committed to developing strong social and ecological communities.

Our activities have included completing risk evaluations for homeowners, four fuels reduction demonstration projects, hosting tours of the projects, giving presentations at homeowners' association meetings and other events, launching a website and Facebook page, hiring a full-time project coordinator, and scheduling slash pickup days in the Yale Creek and Stonegate subdivisions. We also mailed postcards for home evaluations to homeowners, created and distributed a brochure, and hired two part-time outreach representatives to contact homeowners.

Wildfire Awareness Week reached approximately 300 people. Discussion topics included insurance coverage for homes and property in the event of a wildfire, firefighting responsibilities of each agency, disaster preparedness, and wildfire risk to homes. Activities included games and prizes for kids, meeting Smokey Bear, and demonstrations by the Island Park volunteer



Smokey Bear was a popular visitor at Island Park's first Wildfire Awareness Week

Photo: Jessica Simpson

fire department and the Community Emergency Response Team.

Our outreach representatives contacted approximately 200 people in 2014, handing out informational brochures and informing property owners about our organization as well as the risk evaluations, Wildfire Awareness Week, and slash pickup days. As a result of the outreach representatives' work and the postcards, we have received requests from 87 property owners to complete risk evaluations on their properties. The majority of these evaluations have been completed or are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

To conclude our summer activities, we hosted our very first slash pickup days in September. Homeowners placed slash by the side of the road for IPSFC to pick up in both Yale Creek and Stonegate subdivisions. One-hundred seventy-four piles (approximately 45 tons) were collected between the two subdivisions over the course of three days.

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in ISLAND PARK, Idaho and WEST YELLOWSTONE, Montana

OUR VISION

Human and ecological communities of Island Park and West Yellowstone are resilient to fire, insect and disease through awareness, outreach and action.

Website: www.islandparksustainablefirecommunity.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IslandParkSustainableFireCommunity>



Fuels were cut and ready for removal at one of the four defensible space demonstration projects completed by the Island Park collaborative in 2014.

Photo: Jessica Simpson

In the coming year we hope to maintain or improve all of these programs and activities, including completing six more demonstration properties so that more residents can see what a properly mitigated home/lot looks like.

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KEY PARTNERS

Farm Bureau Insurance
Fire Safe Landscaping, LLC
Fremont County
High Country RC&D
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho State Fire Marshall—
Department of Insurance
Island Park volunteer Fire District
Local homeowners
The Nature Conservancy—Idaho (Flat Ranch)
USDA Forest Service—Caribou-Targhee National Forest (Ashton and Dubois Ranger Districts)



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The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Nick Goulette (nickg@hayfork.net).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Ely, Minnesota is a community within hiking distance of the Canadian border and about a 4-hour drive north of the Twin Cities. With a population of about 3,400, Ely is in the middle of a complex landscape. Forests in this region have regrown from the heyday of railroad logging and Paul Bunyan more than 100 years ago. Ely also provides a gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), drawing residents and visitors from all over the world.

Ely is on the frontlines of wildfire risk for many reasons. The area has beautiful forests, but the forests are thick with balsam fir which burns like paper when green and is almost as bad as a box of matches when it is dead and dry. The balsam fir and other understory growth in the forests around Ely can act as ladder fuel and



A FAC and Firewise presentation held at the Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department was aimed at raising awareness about the need for homeowners in the Ely region to create defensible space.
Photo: Gloria Erickson



The owners of this lake resort have worked with the Firewise program in Lake County and the Forest Service to mitigate wildfire risk on their property.
Photo: Lake County

increases the risk of destructive crown fires, including the May 2012 Highway 1 wildfire.

This past summer, local Ely FAC partners came together to implement a “chipper day” fuels reduction project. This event has sparked the interest of more neighborhoods, residents and lake associations. Additional chipper days are being planned, and local leadership and capacity are developing.

Partners are also in the early stages of developing an Ely Area Fire Safe Council. The goal of the Council will be to engage and encourage community partnerships to establish a wildfire resilient landscape for Ely and the surrounding wildland-urban interface. Our main objectives are to: (1) provide education and demonstrations of Firewise best practices, and (2) continue to identify and implement fuels

Dovetail Partners

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in ELY, Minnesota

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL VISION

To engage and encourage community partnerships to establish a wildfire resilient landscape for Ely and the surrounding wildland-urban interface.

reduction projects using our CWPPs as a baseline.

We will also continue to work with the Ely Emergency Preparedness Committee to establish evacuation strategies for Ely residents. And we hope to work with County Emergency managers on much-needed evacuation plans/routes in the surrounding wildland-urban interface.

For Ely, being fire adapted requires balancing recreation needs, resource utilization and public safety. That’s not always an easy balance to strike, but we are making progress.



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KEY PARTNERS

Ely Emergency Preparedness Committee
Firewise—Northeast Regional Specialist Lake County
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Morse/Fall Lake Township
USDA Forest Service
Vermilion Community College



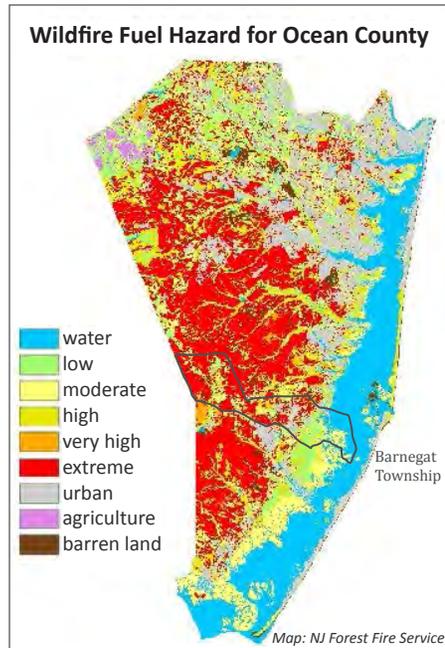
Ely’s first annual Chipper Day was sponsored by local FAC partners in the summer of 2014.
Photos: Gloria Erickson

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Barnegat Township is “ground zero” for wildland-urban interface (WUI) in New Jersey, located in the heart of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, an extremely flammable ecosystem. The area has become popular with retirees, who are mainly new to the area and have little or no understanding of their fire risk.

Our fire adapted communities work has been at two scales. At the local level, the Barnegat Fire Company has been conducting workshops with Barnegat Township communities to keep



There are 56 retirement communities with 125,000 residents in Ocean County, including 5 communities (7,400 people) in Barnegat Township.



Above: The 2007 Warren Grove Wildfire burns behind businesses on County Route 72 in Barnegat Township. Photo: NJ Forest Fire Service/Kevin Burke

Below: That fire burned right to the brink of the mobile home Community of Brighton at Barnegat. The FAC Learning Network has resulted in new relationships with residents and the owner of the community, with an emphasis on the Firewise and Ready, Set, Go! programs and on wildfire resiliency. Photo: NJ Forest Fire Service



them informed of the risk reduction efforts being made. Two Firewise Communities—Horizons and Mirage—have talented, motivated liaisons that keep their communities informed and productive in reducing risk through mechanical fuel reduction projects. They have also begun spreading the FAC word to other WUI communities in Barnegat Township and beyond. Our top priorities in Barnegat Township are to continue to promote Firewise and Ready, Set, Go! in the most vulnerable neighborhoods, and to create additional evacuation routes for one of our largest WUI communities.

Mercer County Soil Conservation District

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP, New Jersey

At the state level we are working with the environmental community to promote wildland fire resiliency through the Sustainable Jersey Program. This involves developing a suite of emergency preparedness actions tied to the Sustainable Jersey Program. To reduce their risk and be certified as “sustainable” under that program, communities implement wildfire preparedness programs and other actions. These may include the Firewise and Ready, Set, Go! programs, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Community Forestry Management Plans, and instituting a Fire Safe Council to coordinate efforts at the municipal level. We have worked with Sustainable Jersey to define this suite of emergency preparedness actions, and have drafted a model municipal ordinance that municipalities can adapt to initiate their own Fire Safe Councils.

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KEY PARTNERS

- Barnegat Fire Company
- Barnegat Township
- Horizons at Barnegat
- Mirage at Barnegat
- New Jersey Forest Fire Service
- New Jersey Forest Service
- Sustainable Jersey

Being part of the FAC Learning Network has been very beneficial for Barnegat. We have learned about the value and potential for Fire Safe Councils at both the local and statewide levels, and as a result hope to form and support as many local councils as are needed to benefit New Jersey’s WUI residents.

Our long-term goals are to create a network of fire resilient municipalities using existing fire prevention and mitigation programs, and to coordinate those efforts through a statewide Fire Safe Council that trains local members and targets funding to motivated and educated councils where the prevention efforts provide the best return on investment. In this way we hope to bring additional state and federal resources to New Jersey’s FAC efforts.



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Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

During its first year in the FAC Learning Network, Towns County FAC increased the number of Firewise communities from three to ten. Another ten communities are in the process of completing their plans, holding their work days, and submitting the paperwork needed to be recognized as Firewise communities.

Wildfire calls in Towns County have been reduced by 75 percent since starting the FAC/Firewise program. At a time when two neighboring counties had 57 and 33 wildfires, Towns County had only seven. This is attributed to the constant messages from the FAC group about wildfire safety and risk reduction around homes. Our success is due largely to the formation of a FAC Citizens Coalition, which is made up of six local citizens and representatives from three fire agencies (the U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and Towns County Fire). This coalition gives ownership to local citizens, while FAC hub leaders can begin spreading the concept to other counties in the area. As a result, new FAC programs have recently been started in White and Lumpkin Counties in northeast Georgia, and more counties are inquiring about starting their own FAC programs.

The current focus for this FAC group is to develop more Firewise communities in the area, in order to further



Volunteers at Leisure Woods Retirement Park—Towns County's second designated Firewise Community—marking the first neighborhood chipper day. Photo: Frank Riley

reduce wildfire calls. The group will continue to focus on homeowner education by all methods available, and will work on private lands hazard mitigation where possible. Most of the wildland-urban interface is connected to national forest land, which has limited opportunities for fuel reduction. However, the Forest Service is planning more prescribed burns in the future, which will help achieve the risk reduction that communities would like to see.

The long-term goal for this FAC Learning Network hub is to continue to actively spread the FAC concept among all of the 13 northeast Georgia counties served by the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, and to help facilitate its spread across the Southeast through the learning network process. The team's ultimate goal is to help make citizens' homes and property safer from wildfire and to minimize losses, thus boosting the economies and quality of life of communities all across the region.

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in TOWNS COUNTY, Georgia

including the communities and subdivisions of Admirals Point / Ashland Cove / Brasstown Creek Estates / Campbell Terrace / Cedar Cliff / Deerfield Estates / Frog Pond / Harris Ridge / Hi River Country / Hiawassee Overlook / Lake Forest / Leisure Woods / Long View / Nantahala Bay / Pine Crest / Plantation Villas / Posey Road / Riverstone / Scarlets Way / Shallow Creek / Sherwood Forest / Soapstone / Tate City / Twiggs Road / Woodcrest / Young Harris College

and expanding into WHITE COUNTY and LUMPKIN COUNTY

FAC Contact: Frank M. Riley, Jr.
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REGIONAL PARTNERS Blue Ridge Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District / Broad River Soil & Water Conservation District / Georgia Department of Agriculture / Georgia Department of Natural Resources / Georgia Forestry Commission / Georgia Mountain Regional Commission / Hall County Soil & Water Conservation District / Stephens County Soil & Water Conservation District / The Nature Conservancy / Upper Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation District / USDA Forest Service—Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forest / USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

COMMUNITY PARTNERS Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation / City of Hiawassee / City of Young Harris / Hiawassee River Watershed Coalition / Towns County 911 Mapping / Towns County Chamber of Commerce / Towns County Commissioner / Towns County Emergency Management Services / Towns County FAC Citizens Coalition / Towns County Fire Corps / Towns County Fire Rescue / Towns County Home Owners Association & individual community HOAs / Towns County Schools / Young Harris College

NEW COUNTY PARTNERS Lumpkin County CERT / Lumpkin County Commissioners / Lumpkin County Emergency Management / Lumpkin County Fire Department / Lumpkin County Homeowners Association / White County CERT / White County Commissioners / White County Emergency Management / White County Fire Rescue / White County Homeowners Association

Left: Towns County celebrated Wildfire Community Preparedness Day with open houses at all six county fire stations.

Right: Educational outreach to schools—such as visits from Smokey Bear and volunteer firefighters—are an important part of community engagement strategies in the county.

Photo: Frank Riley



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Nick Goulette (nickg@hayfork.net).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Baker County embraces a vision of safely living with wildland fire, and brings this with it to the FAC Learning Network. The county has a long history of wildfire activity, which makes FAC a logical and needed next step. The concepts of FAC align well with existing local efforts, including the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Action Plans, and Firewise Communities. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) also actively partners with the Osceola National Forest, Baker County Fire Department and other local coordinators to successfully implement mitigation efforts, such as annual cleanup days, continued work on the control line around Taylor Firewise Community, and prescribed fire assistance on private, state and federal lands.

As part of their participation in the FAC Learning Network, FFS works with new and existing partners in Baker County to undertake FAC activities that address mitigation challenges and opportunities. A significant kickoff event in October 2014 brought community leaders and stakeholders together to learn about FAC and its importance to Baker County and surrounding communities. The event also showcased a number of planned FAC activities

Right: At a Taylor Firewise Community work day, neighbors work and then play together to help prepare the community for wildfire.



A forest ranger from the Florida Forest Service blows leaves from a roof as part of wildfire mitigation efforts. *All photos: FFS*

highlighting the county as a FAC Learning Network pilot community. These activities fall broadly into the following categories: wildland fuel management, community outreach and education, Firewise Communities engagement through building retrofits and landscaping, policy and regulatory recommendations, and wildland fire response improvements.

Examples of FAC activities planned for 2015 include conducting a mechanical treatments and prescribed fire demonstration for the public; updating the county CWPP in coordination with county planning officials and the LMS work group; holding a Taylor Firewise Day; engaging Fire Prevention Teams to assist with countywide support for



Florida Forest Service

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in BAKER COUNTY, Florida

FAC; engaging residents in the Ready, Set, Go! program through county fire department and law enforcement efforts to educate residents about preparing for wildfire, developing situational awareness, and planning for evacuation; using the new Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (SouthWRAP) to perform data and program updates; and highlighting the Taylor Firewise Community as a model to adjacent communities to showcase how residents can apply defensible space and fuel reduction and attain recognition. Many of these activities are delineated in the Baker County CWPP.

The Florida Forest Service and local Baker County cooperators rely on partnerships to help coordinate FAC

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KEY PARTNERS

Baker County
Baker County Fire Department
Citizens Corp
City of MacClenny
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Forest Service
Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners
North Florida Prescribed Fire Council
Northeast Florida Chapter American Red Cross
Plum Creek Timber Company
Taylor Firewise USA Community
The Longleaf Alliance
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
USDA Forest Service

activities. As future efforts unfold, they will also look to reconvene existing collaboratives; recruit new partners; and build relationships with planning, zoning, and building code development and enforcement staff.



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The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Nick Goulette (nickg@hayfork.net).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

In September 2013, before joining the FAC Learning Network, the City of Austin hosted the state's first Fire Adapted Communities Symposium in an effort to build buy-in and consensus around the FAC concept. The workshop provided a common operating picture of how cooperators could leverage the concept into action.

The most critical action identified was the completion of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for an area that only recently realized that wildfire was a part of their new reality. The plan development and review process lasted almost two years as the Austin Travis County Wildfire Coalition—a multijurisdictional taskforce—worked to find common ground in a novel environment. The plan was unanimously approved by the Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court along with the Texas A&M Forest Service in November 2014.



The recently-adopted Austin Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was celebrated by stakeholders and the public during a signing ceremony on November 14, 2014.

Photo: Austin Fire Department

On adoption of the plan, a CWPP taskforce member from the city Watershed Protection Department said that they are “passionate about serving the community and are excited that, together, we can accomplish collaboration in a way that has never been done before.” Her comment also reflected how fire and water interests have aligned for a common purpose, with transparency and commitment to find areas of agreement. In the end, there was much more agreement than had been imagined possible—the 940-page plan reflects a cultural shift that started with apprehension and ended with cohesion. The CWPP will be leveraged to implement a local cohesive strategy that connects to the FAC Learning Network by sharing lessons learned and embracing innovations.

Building on this monumental effort, the City of Austin's Fire Department has several other key FAC goals:

- Leverage the CWPP taskforce into a permanent standing wildfire cooperative, whose focus will be implementing the cohesive strategy at the local level using the newly adopted CWPP as the springboard.
- Engage the public by effecting a cultural shift from feeling at risk to becoming empowered to act. During the CWPP recognition ceremony and subsequent workshop, the overarching theme was an interest from communities at risk across Travis county to recognize their role in wildfire preparedness. Austin Fire

Austin Travis County Wildfire Cooperative

HUB ORGANIZATION



Working in the CITY OF AUSTIN and 21 communities at risk in TRAVIS COUNTY, Texas

Department hopes to accomplish a cultural shift by sharing with others what we have learned: that wildfire is everyone's fight—and that fight starts with understanding your role.

Future FAC efforts will include the integration of WUI considerations into land management planning, development of a local prescribed fire network that includes organizations with prescribed burning responsibilities to ensure coordination across the county, pre-incident planning for both communities and natural areas, and the development of a functional evacuation model.

Being a part of the FAC Learning Network is facilitating benchmarking with other communities at risk, increasing exposure to novel research and subject matter experts, and providing a better

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KEY PARTNERS

Travis County—
Office of Emergency Management
Transportation and Natural Resources

City of Austin—
Austin Water Utility
Fire Department
Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Planning and Development Review
Department
Watershed Protection

Capital Area Fire Chiefs Association
Small Cities Alliance of Travis County
Texas A&M Forest Service

Wildfire is everyone's fight—
and that fight starts with
understanding your role.

understanding of the power of collaboration. The Austin Fire Department hopes to learn from the successes and challenges that other communities have experienced, and to develop a model for wildfire preparedness that other large municipalities and counties can use to rapidly implement a local cohesive strategy.



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Nick Goulette (nickg@hayfork.net).

Indexes



Actions Taken by FAC Learning Network Hubs to Address Values at Risk



state:	TX	ID	CA	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	NV/CA	OR	OR
	Austin Fire Department	Boise Fire Department	CA Fire Safe Council	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Dovetail Partners	FireWise Council of SW Colorado	Florida Forest Service	The Forest Guild	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community	Karuk Tribe	Mercer County Soil Conservation District	North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	Project Wildfire	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
WILDFIRE HAZARD AND RESPONSE	WUI training for fire depts	E	E		S		E	E	S		S		E	S	S		
	wildfire evacuation plan	N	N		N		N		S		S	N	S	E	S	S	N
	community preplanning and utilization of ICS	N	E		E		N		S*	S	S		E	E	S*		N
	local area incident management team	E	E		N		E	E	S		S	E	E	E			
	cross-trained local crews	N	E		E		N	E	E	E	S	E	E	E	S		
	mutual aid agreements	S	E		S		E	E	E	S	S	S	E*	S	S	S	
COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK (Non-Residential)	risk mapping	N	N		N		E	S	S	S*	S	E	E	S		E	S
	watershed management	N			S			E	S	S*	N	S	E	S	S		S
	community assessments	E	N	E	E	E	N	E	E	S	S	N	E	S	E	E	S
RESIDENTIAL VALUES AT RISK	home ignition zone (HIZ) assessments & apps	E*	N	E	E	E	N	E	E	S*	S			S	E*	E	S
	engagement with HOAs	S	S		E	S	N	S*	E	S	S	E		E	S	E	N

KEY

- S = stable
- E = expanding
- N = new
- * = special expertise



Prescribed fire training exchanges in northern NM help train local fire personnel. *Photos: M. Meyers/NMSLO; Forest Guild*



Many FAC hubs provide or assist with home assessments as well as defensible space projects. *Photos: North Lake Tahoe FPD*

FAC Learning Network Hubs' Resources & Strategies



state:	TX	ID	CA	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	NV/CA	OR	OR
	Austin Fire Department	Boise Fire Department	CA Fire Safe Council	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Dovetail Partners	FireWise Council of SW Colorado	Florida Forest Service	The Forest Guild	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community	Karuk Tribe	Mercer County Soil Conservation District	North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	Project Wildfire	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

	TX	ID	CA	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	NV/CA	OR	OR
PLANS AND REGULATIONS	CWPPs	N	E		S	S	E	S	S*	S*	S	S	S	E*	E*	S	S
	hazard mitigation action plan	S	E		S		S	E	S	S		S	N	S	N	S	S
	CCRs, codes, ordinances	E	E		S						S*			E	S	E	N
	comp plans/ other plans	E	N		S				E		S		E	S	S		S
WILDFIRE MITIGATION RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS	Ready, Set, Go!	E	E		E		S	N/E	E					E	N	E	N
	Firewise	S	S	S*	E	S*	S	E	S	E	N	S	E	S	E		E
	Fire Safe Councils			S*		S*		N				S		S	E	N	N
	chipping program		S		E		S	E	S*		S			S	S	S	
	awareness day/ week	N	N	E	E	N	S	N	S*	E	E	S	N	S	S	S	S
	trainings	E	E	S	S	N	S	E	S	S	S*	S	N	E	E		E
	prescribed fire & smoke	E			E		E	S/E		E	S	S		E	N	S*	E
	other fuel management	N	S		S		E	S/E		E	S	S	N	E	S*	S*	S
RESOURCES	local WUI tax or fee											N*		N	S		
	vegetation disposal	E			S		E	N	E		N	S		S			S*
	grant & funding directory			S*	S	S*		N			S		N	S			S
	dedicated FAC staff	S	S		E		E	E					N	E	S	S	

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- S = stable
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- * = special expertise



Chipper days are held in communities across the country.



Photos: Pamella Wilson (FireWise of SW CO), Gloria Erickson (MN), Frank Riley (GA)



FAC Learning Network works with many Firewise communities
Photos: Florida Forest Service

FAC Learning Network Hubs' Public Outreach & Partnerships



state:	TX	ID	CA	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	NV/CA	OR	OR
	Austin Fire Department	Boise Fire Department	CA Fire Safe Council	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Dovetail Partners	FireWise Council of SW Colorado	Florida Forest Service	The Forest Guild	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community	Karuk Tribe	Mercer County Soil Conservation District	North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	Project Wildfire	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INPUT	FAC regional workshops	E	N	E	S	E	E	E	E	E	N	?	N	S	N	S	E
	community / public meetings	N	E	E	E	E	S	E	S	S	S		S	E	E	S	E
	public demos / learning sites	E	E		S		S	N	S	E	S	N	E	E	E	S	S
	FAC brochures	N	E		E		N	N	N	N	N	N		S	E*	E	N
	PSAs, videos	N	N		S		N	E			N		E	E			
	FAC website / blog	N	N		E		E	N	N	S	N	N	N	S		E	N
	social media	E	E		E	E	E	E	S	S	S	E	N	E	S	E	E
	outreach plan	N	N		N		N/E	E					E		E	S	E
	volunteer groups, citizen coalition	N	N		E		E	N/E	S*		N		E	S	E	N	E*
PARTNERS	FAC LN self-assessment tool	N	N		N		E	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	E
	FAC steering committee	E	E		E		S	N	N		N						S
	partner learning exchanges	E	N		E		E	N/E		N	N	N	E	S			
	state partnerships	E	E	S	S	S	S	N	E	S	S	E	N	E		S	S
	regional partnerships	N	E	S	S			N/E	E	E	S	S	E	E		S	S
	national partnerships	N	E	S	S	S		N/E				E	E	E		S	S

KEY

- S = stable
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Field tours, volunteer work groups and peer-learning workshops all play a role in outreach, public engagement and partnership-building in the FAC Learning Network.
 Photos: Boise Fire Dept. (ID), CUSP (CO), Forest Guild (NM)



**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK

www.FACNetwork.org