

Washington Dry Forests FLN



Partner Agencies & Organizations

Bureau of Land Management
 Center for Natural Lands Management
 Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition
 South Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
 Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative
 The Nature Conservancy
 USDA Forest Service—Okanogan-Wenatchee NF (Supervisors Office; Naches RD)
 USDA Forest Service—Region 6
 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Methow and Sinlahekin Wildlife Areas)
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (prescribed burn team)
 Washington Prescribed Fire Council
 Yakama Nation
 Yakima County Fire
 Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition
 WUI homeowners



What We've Learned

To address the significant issues surrounding restoring fire adapted ecosystems, there has to be an approach that broadens societal understanding of fire—to understand it as a tool that can help meet societal goals, as well as having harmful effects. In other words, to shift the focus from “protect” to “adapt.” While the need to engage society to address negative cultural attitudes of fire is hardly an epiphany, the Fire Adapted Communities approach of engaging people in appropriate roles provides a manageable framework and logical approach to an otherwise overwhelming and slippery goal.

Recent Work Here

We have been testing approaches for using the Fire Adapted Communities framework to locally engage a broader set of stakeholders—including those that work in wildfire and as well as others affected by wildfire—to establish a greater understanding of their various roles, and to develop shared solutions and motivate organizations and individuals to take action to adapt.



A member of the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative talks to local residents about fire and forest ecology, efforts land managers are taking to restore forests and prepare for wildfire, and how homeowners can prepare for wildfire. © TNC/Reese Lolley



A model built by the BLM illustrates what one can do to prepare for wildfire—from fire resistant building material choices to creating defensible space—and how these actions help first responders protect property and give land managers more options in managing fire. © TNC/Reese Lolley

Beyond Our Boundaries

Investments in the Washington Prescribed Fire Council are developing a strong and growing coalition of prescribed fire practitioners across the state. The Council is addressing burn ban constraints by working to reinstate a process for professional prescribed fire practitioners to obtain exceptions to burn, charting a path forward for revision of fire and smoke policies that will increase the use of safe and responsible use of prescribed fire, and increasing training exchange opportunities to increase our prescribed fire capacity.

Looking Ahead

In addition to expanding the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network in Washington, we are excited to be working with Tapash land managers and stakeholders in the Manastash-Taneum large landscape project. The project will pilot and test major tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy, in the areas of landscape resilience, fire adapted communities and wildland fire response. We will develop a vision across a 90,000-acre federal, state and private landscape so that active treatments and management of natural disturbance events (wildfire and floods) will be more re-



Draft cartoon from the toolkit. The completed graphic will indicate watch out situations and things to do after a fire, such as avoiding downed electrical lines, securing loose valuables around homes in case of flooding, clearing culverts, etc. Rusty Gibbs/Gibbs Graphics

In addition, the “After the Fire” tool kit we’re developing is a flexible approach for reaching community members across the West. It will provide practical information on preparing for post-fire dangers such as flooding while also carrying the message about how “nature” is resilient and recovers after fire.

storative than destructive, and where wildfire suppression response is coordinated to meet land management needs, reduce costs and protect life and property. We will do this by developing an integrated process of large landscape analysis; engaging landowners and other stakeholders in treatment planning; and building on our FAC approaches to engage WUI homeowners, the local fire district, county officials, businesses and land managers.



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 Washington Department of Wildlife