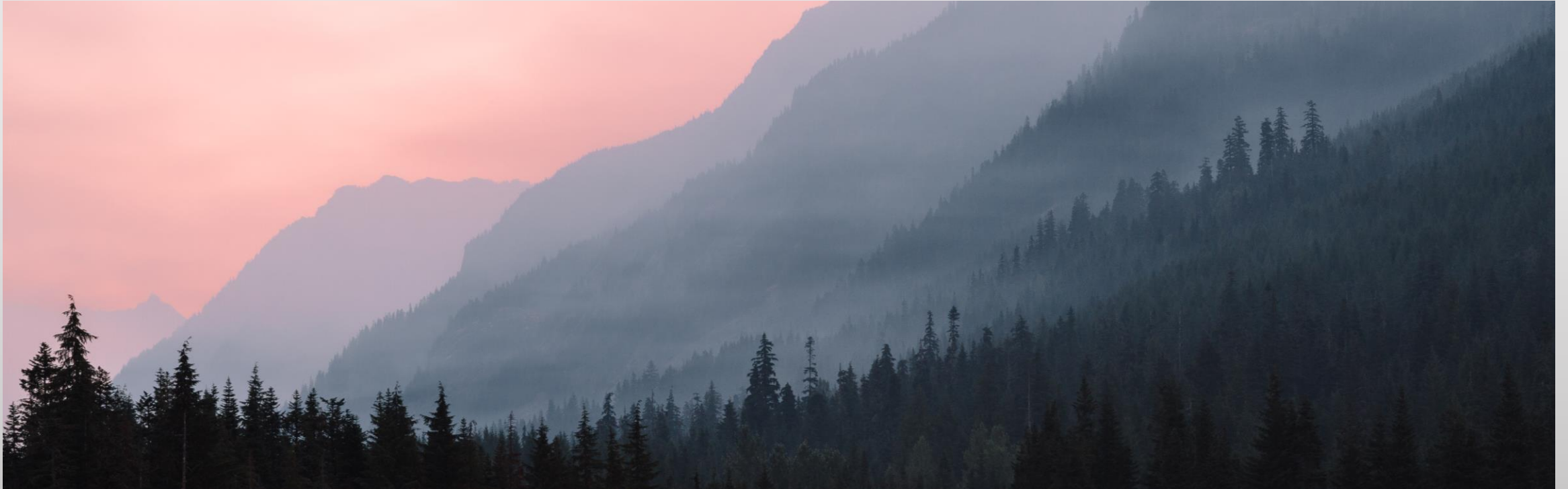




Whatcom
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Presentation Overview

- Climate Resilience & Preparedness Priorities
- Wildfire Risk Reduction Program
- Looking to the Future



Long Range Plan

Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

Natural Resource Priority Program Area

Climate Resiliency & Preparedness:

- Improve climate resiliency through carbon sequestration and carbon emissions reduction practices
- Promote forest health, integrity, and stewardship on Non-Industrial Private Forest lands
- Increase implementation of wildfire risk reduction practices
- Increase implementation of water use efficiency practices to address water management concerns
- Assist working land managers with preparing for and adapting to extreme weather events and changing climate conditions



Long Range Plan

Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

Goal: Increase implementation of wildfire risk reduction practices

Desired Outcome: Reduced wildfire-associated losses (acres and structures) in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Priority Actions:

- Promote fire resiliency (and associated benefits) through direct marketing and partnerships
- Provide fire risk management services through marketing, direct services, and partnerships
- Conduct community risk management trainings and fuels reduction events, including community chipping events
- Increase delivery of fire resiliency services in the WUI
- Work with audiences in underserved/not yet-served communities



Long Range Plan

Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Facilitate 5 **community presentations**
- Conduct 30 individual wildfire **risk assessments**, create an evaluation methodology to determine implementation of recommendations
- Perform risk reduction trainings and assistance for 3 communities
- Conduct 5 **fuels reduction projects**
- Secure local/state/federal funding
- Conduct **mapping** of current audiences served and build comprehensive understanding of all audiences





Wildfire Risk Reduction in Whatcom County

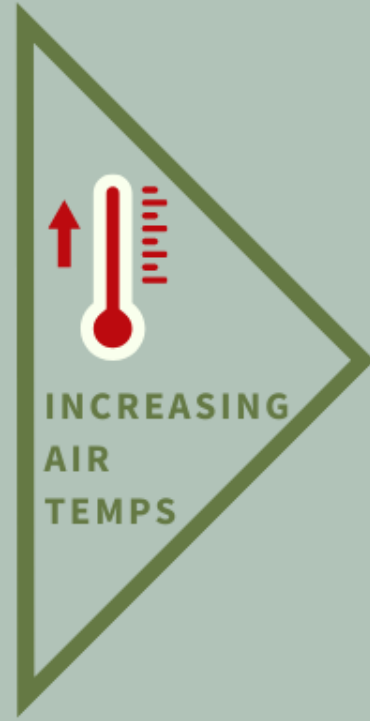


CHANGING CONDITIONS

Recent increases in fuel aridity are related to multiple climate factors.

Adapted by Whatcom Conservation District from Westerling et.al. 2006

**Wildfire risk is
INCREASING
in Western
Washington**



**DRIER
FUELS
&
FORESTS**



WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM



The diagram consists of two circles connected by a thin brown line. The left circle is white with a grey drop shadow and contains the text 'EMPOWERING LANDOWNERS' in dark blue, followed by 'TOOLS & RESOURCES', 'ACCESS TO EXPERTS', and 'WORKSHOPS' in brown. The right circle is a reddish-orange color with a grey drop shadow and contains a white silhouette of a wildfire flame. Overlaid on the flame is the text 'WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM' in red. A thin brown line connects the right side of the left circle to the left side of the right circle.

EMPOWERING LANDOWNERS

**TOOLS & RESOURCES
ACCESS TO EXPERTS
WORKSHOPS**

**WILDFIRE
RISK
REDUCTION
PROGRAM**

All In For Climate Action Week Event

HOME WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Join the Whatcom Conservation District to learn about how you can improve the wildfire safety of your home & property. This event will discuss how homes ignite, walk through a wildfire risk assessment, & offer actions you can take to reduce your wildfire risk.

Saturday, September 30th at 10:00AM

**Bellingham Hatchery in Whatcom Falls Park
1700 Silver Beach Rd**



Free
Event



2023 Accomplishments

7

wildfire
preparedness
presentations

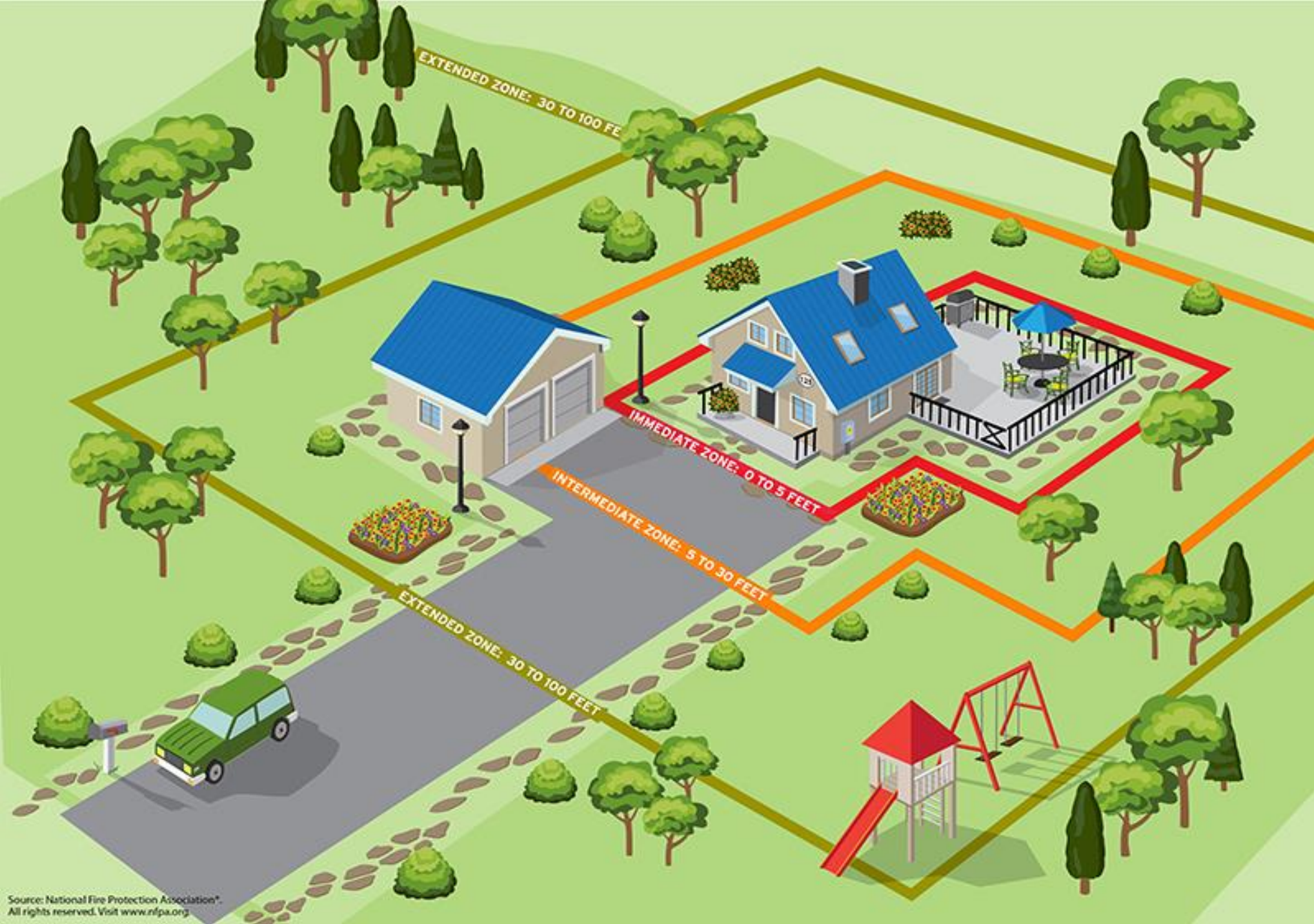


The diagram consists of two circles. The left circle is white with a grey drop shadow and contains the text 'EVALUATING WILDFIRE RISK' in bold blue font and 'INDIVIDUAL SITES', 'NEIGHBORHOODS', and 'COUNTY' in brown font. The right circle is reddish-orange with a white fire flame graphic in the center and the text 'WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM' in bold red font. A thin brown line connects the right side of the left circle to the left side of the right circle.

**EVALUATING
WILDFIRE RISK**

INDIVIDUAL SITES
NEIGHBORHOODS
COUNTY

**WILDFIRE
RISK
REDUCTION
PROGRAM**



2023 Accomplishments

54

landowner wildfire
risk assessments
and plans

Complete mitigation actions on and around these structures as you have done for the home.

Are there other combustible items located within 30 feet of the structure (scrap lumber, junk, cars, boats, RVs, etc.)?

NO

Firewood pile stored closer than 30 feet to the home?

NO

Do trees or branches touch or overhang the structure?

NO

Branches do overhand the shed but these are from trees on city property

Is there brush or other vegetation that could act as a "ladder" and allow fire to climb into larger trees or the structure itself?

NO

Is a continuity of fuels present in this zone?

YES

Continuous or unseparated fuels allow fire to spread. All trees and shrubs in this zone should be well spaced and well maintained. Plant in groupings or "islands" of vegetation to disrupt the continuity of fuels – that is, reduce the potential of fire spread by separating vegetation with the use of non-combustible areas (green grass, rock, pathways, etc.) so that if an island of vegetation were to ignite, the heat, and flame contact would be insufficient to ignite the home or adjacent islands.

Do grasses and weeds need to be trimmed or maintained?

NO

Are there piles of downed dead branches, dead logs, slash and/or heavy accumulations of pine needles?

NO



**WILDFIRE
RISK
REDUCTION
PROGRAM**

**SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES**

WILDFIRE PLANNING
FIREWISE USA PROGRAM
FUELS REDUCTION

Firewise USA®



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks





- **Snowline Community Club**
- **Peaceful Valley**
- **River Farm**
- **Clarks Point**
- **Lummi Island Scenic Estates**
- **North Cascades Institute (ELC)**

2023 Accomplishments

4

hazardous fuels
reduction project

54 tons
material chipped



Photo by Gabriella Mednick, Whatcom CD

2023 Accomplishments

11
communities
assisted with
wildfire planning
efforts



 **Kulshan
Carbon Trust**

Free Workshop
June 7th, 4-8pm

**River Farm
Biochar Demonstration**

Space is limited - email aknauf@whatcomcd.org to register!

 **Event Details:**

- Wednesday, June 7th
- 4pm-8pm
- Drop in anytime!

Prsented By:

- Kulshan Carbon Trust
- Whatcom Conservation District
- River Farm





MAY IS WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH



Proclamation

WHEREAS, wildfires increasingly pose a threat to homes and communities throughout Washington State as more people are moving into the wildland areas; and

WHEREAS, most wildfires in Western Washington are human caused; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington is becoming increasingly susceptible to wildfire with increasing temperatures, decreasing summer rain, and earlier snowmelt; and this has elevated the need for wildfire prevention and preparedness at both the community and individual homeowner levels; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County residents must be encouraged to move from the expectation of being protected from wildfire to the understanding that they must be prepared to survive wildfire and work together to prepare their homes and community to survive wildfire; and

WHEREAS, when whole communities implement appropriate pre-fire activities they improve the survivability of their individual homes and community during wildfire; and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal agencies and organizations are working together in Whatcom County to increase awareness of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, do I, Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim the month of May to be:

Wildfire Awareness Month

in Whatcom County, as a means for education and a call for residents of Whatcom County to act to reduce the wildfire threat to their homes and help our community move toward becoming more fire-adapted.

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Satpal Singh Sidhu".

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive



Community Wildfire Resilience Program Funding 2024

