



FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK FIELD GUIDE

January 2016





Copyright 2016 The Nature Conservancy

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” (PERFACT) 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 <http://fireadaptednetwork.org>.

Cooperative Agreement Contacts

FLN Director	Lynn Decker	ldecker@tnc.org	(801) 320-0524
USDA Forest Service	Tim Melchert	tmelchert@fs.fed.us	(208) 387-5512
Dept. of the Interior	David Overcast	david_overcast@ios.doi.gov	(202) 606-3206

The PERFACT Team

The Nature Conservancy North America Fire Team: Lynn Decker, Jeremy Bailey, Guy Duffner, Wendy Fulks, Mary Huffman, Heather Montanye, Liz Rank

The Watershed Research and Training Center: Nick Goulette, Michelle Medley-Daniel, Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Emily Troisi, Katie van Pelt

The Field Guide is compiled and produced by Liz Rank (lrnk@tnc.org). Thanks to the numerous community leaders and partners who provided text, photos and review for this document, and for the valuable work they do in the field.

Photo Credits

Front cover (top to bottom): Liz Davy/USFS, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Forest Stewards Guild (2).

This page: Liz Davy/USFS.

Back cover (left to right): Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, Frank Riley, Florida Forest Service, Ryan Anderson/SCWRCD.



Contents

Overview of the FAC Learning Network	2
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Members	
Austin Fire Department (Texas)	4
Boise Fire Department (Idaho)	5
Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council (Georgia)	6
Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (Washington)	7
Coalition for the Upper South Platte (Colorado)	8
Dovetail Partners (Minnesota)	9
FireWise of Southwest Colorado	10
Florida Forest Service	11
Forest Stewards Guild (New Mexico)	12
Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (Arizona)	13
Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (Idaho/Montana)	14
Karuk Tribe (California)	15
New Jersey Fire Safety Council (New Jersey)	16
Project Wildfire (Oregon)	17
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (Oregon)	18
Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team (Nevada/California)	19
FAC Learning Network State-Wide Efforts	
California Fire Safe Council	21
Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities	22
Washington Fire Adapted Communities Network	23
FAC Learning Network Indexes	
Actions Taken & Values at Risk	26
FAC hubs cross-referenced with actions to address values at risk	
Resources & Strategies	27
FAC hubs cross-referenced with resources, programs and strategies	
Public Outreach & Partnerships	28
FAC hubs cross-referenced with outreach efforts and partnerships	



Photo: Liz Rank/TNC

“The value of the network is hard to quantify, but equally hard to overstate. The communication and sharing between network members, conversations with our liaison, and lessons learned from others have been invaluable.”

FAC Learning Network member
interview recorded at national workshop, June 2015

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 U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, we share a vision of accelerating 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 Safe Councils, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Firewise Communities boards, fire departments, 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:

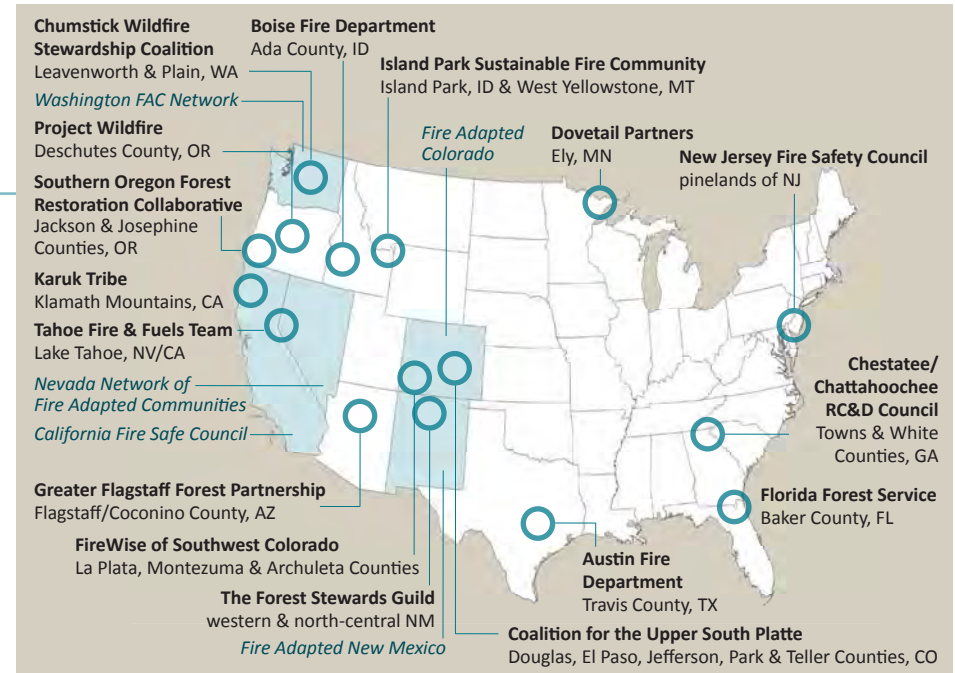
- Restore and maintain resilient landscapes in all jurisdictions;
- Prepare communities so they can live with and withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property; and
- Safely, efficiently and effectively respond to wildfires when they happen.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Collective Value Proposition

We help society live safely with wildfire.

This is accomplished by network members as we:

- Share inspiration, innovations, ideas, lessons learned and best practices,
- Create and maintain connections,
- Enable their communities to become more fire resilient,
- Foster and grow sub-networks,
- Create a broader understanding of FAC concepts and principles,
- Influence policy and funding, and
- Develop products that FAC practitioners can use in their communities and regions.



Sixteen pilot communities and five emerging state-wide networks are active in the FAC Learning Network, with plans to continue expansion. Each of these efforts is building capacity and raising awareness about wildfire resilience through a host of preparedness, mitigation and recovery activities.



Working together: Community work days, like this one near Woodland Park, CO (top), let “many hands make light work” while strengthening community ties. At the 2014 national workshop, the Austin and Boise fire departments discovered their very different places had much in common, leading to a series of learning exchanges (bottom) in 2015.

Photos: Coalition for the Upper South Platte; TNC

A Sampling of Projects Undertaken by FAC Learning Network Members

Network members help their communities become more resilient by taking action before, during and after wildfires. Recent examples include:

- Partnering with a statewide community sustainability NGO to add wildfire resilience to the mix (NJ)
- Leading outreach efforts for a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (OR)
- Evacuating an entire town in a wildfire preparedness drill (NV)
- Taking part in a team deployed in a pilot effort to support FAC strategies in an area currently experiencing large wildfires (CA, CO, WA)
- Hosting local Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities (AZ, CO, MN & others)
- Maintaining websites to provide FAC information tailored to local or state needs (CA, NM, WA & others)
- Taking part in state, regional and national conferences to share FAC expertise (CA, GA, NV, TX & others)
- Sharing their FAC stories with media ranging from small local papers to NPR's *Morning Edition* (CO, GA, NJ, WA & others)

How Does the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Work?

Most of the 19 organizations leading local or state 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



In 2015, the FAC Learning Network and Fire Learning Network met together in Santa Fe for several days of presentations, discussions—and plenty of one-on-one networking. Photo: Liz Rank/TNC

learning, they produce quick guides, communications tools, and other resources.

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.

<http://FireAdaptedNetwork.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: Wendy Fulks/TNC; Andrew Holm; Guy Duffner/TNC



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

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



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

FAC Contact: Justice Jones
justice.jones@austintexas.gov
(512) 974-0199

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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Boise Fire Department is engaged in many FAC activities. These are supported by a variety of grants and, since 2015, through its participation in the FAC Learning Network. Beginning in 2011, the City of Boise has been busy with many wildfire mitigation projects, including managing many supported by our partner, the Southwest Idaho RC&D. These include creating fuel breaks using selective sagebrush thinning, grazing goats, herbicide application and re-seeding. City of Boise Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant funding has also supported chipping of hazardous fuels for homeowners in targeted neighborhoods in the Boise wildland-urban interface.

Another RC&D-supported project is the acquisition and installation of an FTS Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) in the Boise Front; this includes a VHF radio that can alert firefighters in real time to changing weather conditions during wildland firefighting operations. With a Western States Fire Grant and matching partnership funding from Ada County Emergency Management the Boise Fire Department is using remote sensing (LiDAR) data, to create a county-wide wildfire risk map and associated software that will improve assessment, planning and public outreach.

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



Boise and Austin Fire Department personnel tour the Idaho Botanical Gardens Firewise Garden in May 2015, as part of an Austin/Boise Fire Department Learning Exchange.

Photo: J. McAdams/Boise Fire Department

its partners. For example, a tour for the Public Lands Foundation examined an area where a fatal wildland fire burned, and where several years of phased wildfire mitigation work have taken place to reduce future risks. More in-depth versions of this tour were part of the April 2015 IAWF International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference and the Austin (Texas)-Boise learning exchange sponsored by the FAC Net. 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 concepts; Ready, Set, Go!; Firewise and local wildfire mitigation activities to professional firefighters.

Through participation in FAC Net workshops, we have 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 streamline and tailor mitigation and public outreach

Boise Fire Department



Working in ADA COUNTY Idaho



City of Boise communities

Boise Heights NA / Collister NA / Columbia Village / Cove East / East End NA / Harris Ranch NA / Highland NA / Homestead Rim / Hulls Grove / Oregon Trail Heights / Quail Ridge NA / Surprise Valley

Firewise Communities

Central Foothills / Columbia Village / Morningside Heights / Quail Ridge / Warm Springs Mesa



In the Oregon Trail area, a late fall herbicide application on a 100-acre hillside strip followed spring goat grazing; reseeded is scheduled for fall 2016. A fatal wildfire took place in this area in 2008.

Photo: K. McCormick/Boise Fire Department

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

FAC Contact: Capt. Jerry McAdams
jmcadams@cityofboise.org
(208) 570-6576

COMMUNITY PARTNERS Ada County Emergency Management / Ada County Juvenile Court Services / Ada County Parks & Waterways / Ada Soil & Water Conservation District / Boise High School / Boise Parks Department / Boise Planning & Development Services / Boise Public Works Department / City of Eagle / Eagle Fire Protection District / Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association / Healthy Hills Initiative / Hidden Springs Town Association / Kuna Rural Fire District / Meridian Fire Department / North Ada County Fire & Rescue District / Star Joint Fire District / Stone Creek Fire LLC / Whitney Fire Protection District / and numerous homeowner and neighborhood associations

REGIONAL PARTNERS Boise State University—Department of Geosciences; Public Policy Center / Bureau of Land Management / Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security / Idaho Department of Fish & Game / Idaho Fire Chiefs Association / Idaho Firewise / Idaho Power / Idaho Transportation Department / International Association of Fire Chiefs / International Association of Wildland Fire / National Interagency Coordination Center / NextDoor / Southwest Idaho RC&D / University of Idaho—Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology / USDA Agricultural Research Service

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



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

During our first year in the FAC Learning Network, the number of Firewise communities in Towns County grew from three to ten. Since then the number has grown to nineteen, with another six communities in the process of completing plans, holding work days and submitting the paperwork needed for Firewise community recognition.

Wildfire calls in Towns County have dropped 75 percent since starting the FAC/Firewise program. At a time when two neighboring counties had 57 and 33 wildfires, Towns County had 7. This is attributed in large part to the steady flow of 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, made up of six local citizens and representatives from three fire agencies (U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and Towns County Fire). The coalition gives local ownership to citizens—and FAC leaders have begun spreading the concept to other counties in the area. As a result, new FAC programs have recently been started in White, Lumpkin and Union 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



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

communities in the area—and maintain the ones we have—to further reduce wildfire calls. We continue to focus on homeowner education by all methods available, and will work on private lands hazard mitigation where possible. Most of our 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.

Our long-term goal as part of the network is to continue to spread FAC concepts among all of the 13 counties in northeast Georgia served by the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, and to help facilitate their spread across the Southeast through the learning network process. The team's ultimate goal is to help citizens make their homes and property safer from wildfire and to minimize losses. This will boost the economies and quality of life of communities across the region, up the Appalachians from Georgia to Virginia with RC&D Councils facilitating efforts.

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council



Working in TOWNS COUNTY, Georgia

including the communities and subdivisions of Asheland Cove / Autumn Ridge on the Creek / Bell Creek Estates / Brasstown Creek Estates / Cedar Cliff / Frog Pond Community / Hi River Country / Hiawassee Overlook / Lake Forest Estates / Leisure Woods Park / Pine Crest / Plantation Villas / River Ridge / Riverstone Heights / Scarlets Way / Soapstone Community / Woodlake / Young Harris College / Young Harris Mountain

and expanding into WHITE COUNTY and LUMPKIN COUNTY

The May 2015 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day featured a live exercise simulating a wildfire/house fire situation with multiple events unfolding. Sixty-three volunteers took part in this training for first responders from Towns County Emergency Services; U.S. Forest Service; Georgia Forestry Commission; Towns County Commissioners, Sheriff and 911 and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D. The exercise, in a Firewise community, met with very positive results from first responders and the citizens involved.

FAC Contact:

Frank M. Riley, Jr.
frank.ccrd@gmail.com
(706) 897-1676

REGIONAL PARTNERS Blue Ridge Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District / Broad River Soil & Water Conservation District / Georgia Dept. of Agriculture / Georgia Dept. 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 / Towns County 911 Mapping / Towns County Chamber of Commerce / Towns County Commissioner / Towns County Emergency Management Services / Towns County Citizens Coalition / Towns County Fire Corps / Towns County Fire Rescue / Towns County HOA & 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 / Union County Commissioner / Union County Fire Rescue / White County CERT / White County Commissioners / White County Emergency Management / White County Fire Rescue / White County HOA



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The fires of 2014 and 2015 in north-central Washington illustrated both learning opportunities and the challenges of building a resilient community. Over the last year, CWSC endeavored to learn firsthand from our neighbors who withstood loss and braved recovery during and after these catastrophic events. CWSC's efforts and regional exchanges of knowledge, in combination with the fire season, led to an increase in requests for services and collaborative partnerships. The volume of requests demonstrates the significant need for enhanced economic resiliency, business continuity planning and long-term recovery planning to prepare our community for future wildfire incidents. CWSC is working with local partners, including the Fire Learning Network, to develop these plans.

In 2015, CWSC convened a group of business owners and civic leaders from Leavenworth and areas heavily impacted by the 2014 wildfires to explore what it means to be a resilient business community. Several themes emerged—the importance of communication, the need for adequate and comprehensive insurance, and the toll of a disaster on a business community. Valuable connections were made through this process: Leavenworth offered to assist Methow with news releases during



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

fires; CWSC was invited to present business continuity planning in the Methow (according to the Methow Chamber of Commerce, businesses were better prepared as a result of this); the North Central Washington Economic Development District joined CWSC as a partner at a collective impact workshop; and a community of practice was formed by the CWSC, Okanogan Conservation District, and the Yakima Fire Adapted Communities Coalition to continue the learning. The connections are leading to collaborative efforts and building community connectedness throughout the region.

By engaging with 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 change the way we view fire—we

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition



Working in LEAVENWORTH and PLAIN, Washington

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.

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.

FAC Contact: Hilary Lundgren
hilary@chumstickcoalition.org
(509) 630-2836

KEY PARTNERS

American Red Cross—Apple Valley Chapter
Bavarian Village Business Association
Cascadia Conservation District
Chelan County Fire District 3
Chelan County—Department of Emergency Management, Public Utility District, Public Works, Sheriff
City of Leavenworth
Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce
National Weather Service
North Central Washington Economic Development District
Okanogan Conservation District
South Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
USDA Forest Service—Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State University—Cooperative Extension
Wenatchee Valley Humane Society and local residents & landowners



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

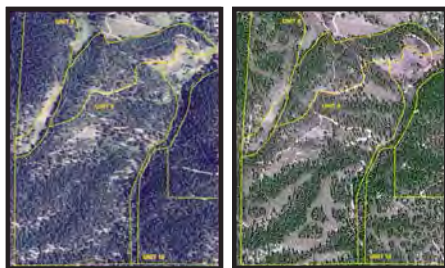
LEARNING NETWORK

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, with an emphasis to our communities' values.

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 Plans and landscape-scale activities that reduce hazardous fuels;
- increasing forest resiliency;
- raising community awareness, preparedness and ownership; and
- building local capacity for project management and implementation.

CUSP works in areas adjacent to projects that are planned, already underway, or have been recently



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



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

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

Also a priority are projects in at-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones along the Colorado Front Range. Having completed over 1,000 acres of treatments in 2015, CUSP has begun to expand its area of influence, and has begun mentoring several other non-profit organizations facing the same challenges.

With a skilled staff of 25 and new pieces of equipment, CUSP is well



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



Working in WOODLAND PARK and along the Colorado Front Range

positioned to even more effectively implement forest management projects. Participation in the FAC Learning 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 Learning Network has also raised the organization's national visibility, further extending its impact.

Looking ahead, CUSP will be focusing on risk reduction in the home ignition zone, and in creating cross-boundary understanding of the needs of both the community and of the ecosystems on the Front Range of Colorado. It is our belief that both landscapes and communities' values must be understood for effective forest management projects to succeed.

Contact:

Jonathan Bruno
jonathan@uppersouthplatte.org
(719) 748-0033
www.cusp.ws

KEY PARTNERS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Springs Utilities
Colorado State Forest Service
Denver Water
Florissant Fire Protection District
Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership
Help the Needy
Jefferson County
Mile High Youth Corps
Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District
Park County
Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners
Pikes Peak Fire Learning Network
Teller County
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Air Force Academy
USDA Forest Service
and local homeowners associations



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*



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Ely, Minnesota is a community within hiking distance of the Canadian border and about a four-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, 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.

In the summer of 2014, local Ely FAC partners came together to implement a “chipper day” fuels reduction project. This event sparked the interest of more neighborhoods, residents and lake associations. Additional chipper days have been held since then, and local leadership and capacity are developing.

Partners are also developing an Ely Area Fire Safe Council. The goal of the Council is 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 provide education and demonstrations of Fire-wise best practices, and to continue to identify and implement

Dovetail Partners



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.

fuels 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.



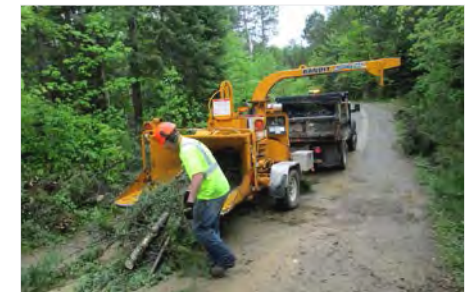
The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

FAC Contact:

Kathryn Fernholz
katie@dovetailinc.org
(612) 333-0430

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

Since joining the FAC Net in 2014, FireWise of Southwest Colorado has hosted and participated in numerous stakeholder events to discuss, plan and implement activities across its three-county area. These have included taking part in public meetings hosted by La Plata County to support new driveway standards, 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.

FireWise convenes two working groups—a Regional Council and Biomass Utilization group. These arose from a wildfire collaboration conference we hosted in 2014, and now host twice yearly for partners to share information and discuss issues. The biomass working group is addressing opportunities for developing a biomass industry in the region. FireWise has contracted with the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado State University for a biomass utilization study. In the meantime, FireWise continues to address the need for slash disposal through operation of several slash depots and a chipper rental rebate program, and by providing funding for homeowner association use of an air curtain burner.

FireWise also champions many FAC-related projects that support wildfire risk reduction. These have included:



- development of a *Best Practices for Homeowners* directory,
- a low-income pilot project in Montezuma County that included fuels reduction and hardening of homes on four individual properties and creation of a fuel break to protect a 96-unit mobile home park,
- a new partnership with the La Plata County GIS Department to map fuels-reduction efforts across the region,
- a collaborative effort conducting fuels mitigation work on conservation easements near communities with FireWise Ambassadors or CWPPs, and
- working with the San Juan National Forest to highlight a 1,200-acre prescribed burn conducted adjacent to a Firewise Community.

FireWise continues to support the Firewise Communities USA program, adding three new communities in 2015, for a regional total of 11. We also support National Wildfire Preparedness Day with events in all three counties.

In 2015, our Montezuma County coordinator hosted several meetings with the Forest Service, local water conservation districts, Bureau of Reclamation and others to determine interest in starting a collaborative group to protect the McPhee Reservoir water supply, which is primarily the Upper Dolores Watershed. Interest is strong and we plan to continue convening the group.

FireWise of Southwest Colorado



FAC Contact:

Pam Wilson

swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com

(970) 385-8909

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

REGIONAL PARTNERS BLM—Southwest District Field Office / Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control / Colorado State Forest Service / Mountain Studies Institute / NRG Consulting / San Juan Citizens Alliance / San Juan Mountains Association / Short Forestry / Southern Rockies Fire Science Network / Southwest Conservation Corps / University of Colorado, Boulder—Institute of Behavioral Sciences / USDA Forest Service—Rocky Mountain Research Station, San Juan NF

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 Departments / La Plata Open Space Conservancy / Los Pinos FPD / 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 / Montezuma Land Conservancy / 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

Top of page: 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: Pam 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



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

As part of our FAC Learning Network activity, FFS works with new and existing partners in Baker County to undertake fire adapted communities activities that address mitigation challenges and opportunities. A kickoff event in 2014 brought community leaders, stakeholders and key partners together to learn about the idea of fire adapted communities—and about the importance of the concepts to Baker County and surrounding communities. Work since then has continued this important conversation.

In 2015, for example, the Baker County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was updated to incorporate FAC concepts. The completed plan was added to the Local Mitigation Strategy as an appendix, where it enhances the Wildfire Protection Element of the strategy by providing a wildfire risk assessment and a ready list of mitigation projects that address defensible space for wildfires, ignition-resistant construction and hazardous fuels reduction.

Community events in Baker County, have brought together a diverse range of experts and stakeholders including the Baker County Agricultural Extension Agent and staff members, Baker County Board of County Commissioners, Baker County Fair Association, Baker County Veterans



A core working group leads the FAC efforts of the Florida Forest Service. Photo: FFS

Council, Longleaf Initiative, North Florida Prescribed Fire Council and members of the public. The Taylor Firewise Community USA held its annual Community of Taylor Firewise Day for residents and volunteers as well. These events highlighted pilot community FAC initiatives, the Baker County CWPP, Firewise and the IAFC Ready, Set, Go! program. Handouts, displays and presentations showcased the Firewise principles of defensible space and landscaping for wildfires, and the application of ignition-resistant construction and hazardous fuel reduction.

Looking forward, a FAC/Firewise coordinator will be guiding efforts. Continuing outreach will engage residents and assess hazards, host tours of successful defensible space and mitigation projects and otherwise promote fire adapted communities actions in the county. A core working group will be training members of the Baker County Veterans Council to assist in and conduct Firewise assessments for county residents and help prepare them to take action.

Florida Forest Service



Working in
BAKER COUNTY, Florida



Outreach to the community through many venues forms a key part of the FAC work in the county. Photo: FFS

Through FAC Learning Network activities and CWPP objectives, actions are expected in three new Firewise Communities (Community Protection Zones) by the end of 2016. The county fire department also recently adopted the RSG! program, and the core working group will be providing support to help the department implement it.

FAC Contact: **Ronda Sutphen**
ronda.sutphen@freshfromflorida.com
(850) 681-5929

KEY PARTNERS

Baker County Board of County Commissioners
Baker County Fire Department
Baker County Sheriff's Office—
Emergency Management Division
Baker County Veterans Council
City of Macclenny
Flatwoods Management LLC
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Division of State Parks
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Florida Forest Service
Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners
North Florida Prescribed Fire Council
Plum Creek Timber Company
Rayonier Inc.
Taylor Firewise USA Community
The Longleaf Alliance
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
USDA Forest Service—Osceola National Forest



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

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. We continue to make tremendous strides on both fronts.

The Forest Stewards Guild joined the New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit planning team in the spring of 2014 and helped plan a three-day event around the theme of fire adapted communities. This relationship has continued in 2015 and 2016. We also continue to work with the City of Santa Fe FAC Coalition and with the budding Wildfire Network, which has recently been incorporated as a nonprofit organization to provide a one-stop shop for mitigation information. The Nature Conservancy has invested in local FAC efforts to expand impact by convening peer learning workshops in the Rio Grande Water Fund region.



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



A prescribed fire training exchange (Trex) in October helped build local capacity while treating fuels on 255 acres near Black Lake *Photo: Mark Meyers/NMSLO*

Other key efforts have included:

- overhauling and maintaining www.fireadaptednewmexico.org based on feedback from partners;
- discussing FAC issues on local radio and in newspapers;
- leveraging existing relationships with landowners and The Nature Conservancy to collaboratively broadcast burn 101 acres on private land across two ranches in a high priority WUI area in McKinley County in late 2015;
- working with New Mexico State Forestry and other partners to incorporate lessons learned and ideas from the national FAC Net into the formal guidance for all new and updated CWPPs in the state.

Combining implementation and outreach, the Guild continues to integrate FAC outreach and education into our youth conservation crew program. Every summer over 45 rural youth work for nine weeks across six Forest Service ranger districts on three national forests. These crews work on FAC and conservation projects like fuels reduction and prescribed fire line construction.

Forest Stewards Guild



Working in SANTA FE COUNTY and MCKINLEY COUNTY, New Mexico

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

The Guild continues to expand and leverage FAC Net investments with companion projects and funding. For example:

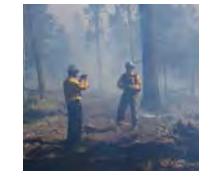
- We are midway through a three-year project supported by the Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program to restore forests and improve watershed conditions in a high priority area adjacent to values at risk identified in the local CWPP.
- In 2015 the Guild completed a project in McKinley County, reducing fuels in the home ignition zone for 30 homes.
- Fire Service Support is working on a project for the New Mexico

FAC Contact:

Eytan Krasilovsky
eytan@forestguild.org
(505) 983-8992 x 16

KEY PARTNERS

Angel Fire—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
The Nature Conservancy—New Mexico
USDA Forest Service—Cibola National Forest, Santa Fe National Forest
Wildfire Network



The fall Trex combined training, treatments and outreach: a local reporter conducted a video interview with the NM State Lands Forester during ignitions. *Photo: Mary Stuever/NMSF*

Association of Counties that will expand the tablet-based home-site risk assessment program into Socorro County.

- In 2016 the Guild is working on two CWPP updates, and the Wildfire Network will be writing another, that will incorporate FAC ideas and approaches.



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) is a long-standing collaborative of academic, environmental and private organizations and municipal, county, state and federal agencies. Since 1996, we have worked to increase community protection through research and demonstration of approaches to restore the natural ecosystem structure, function and composition in the ponderosa pine forests surrounding Flagstaff. GFFP has helped lead a shift in public understanding and support for proactive forest management—increasing awareness of threats our forested communities face and the solutions underway to reduce our risk.

GFFP contributes to two important initiatives in the state: the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) and Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). On the 4FRI project, we lead monitoring of contractors' economic contributions. In the FWPP, we worked with the City of Flagstaff and Arizona State Forestry Division to plan, fund and oversee a 475-acre restoration project on Observatory Mesa, city-owned land within the FWPP boundary. We also continue cost-share assistance to private landowners, with several hundred acres of treatments planned in the coming year.

GFFP hosted numerous events in 2015 that promote common goals



During the 2015 Flagstaff Festival of Science, community members helped mark trees for thinning by the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project.

Photo: Mark Brehl

of the FAC Net and our partners. Our Firewise landscaping contest in May generated incredible excitement, with cash prizes for the five homeowners who best showed that a fire adapted landscape can be both practical and beautiful. This event generated on-going interest, with buzz for the 2016 contest starting months ahead of time. GFFP also hosted events at the week-long Flagstaff Festival of Science, including a hike on Observatory Mesa, and an exercise that allowed people of all ages to experience hands-on marking of trees in an area harvested just days later in a FWPP thinning project. With fun and fresh approaches, we continue to foster community awareness that transforms the public into active partners in our effort to reduce wildfire risk and restore forest health.

GFFP looks forward to another active year. We will continue to facilitate

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership



Working in the GREATER FLAGSTAFF AREA COMMUNITY of northern Arizona

forest treatments and recognize property owners with publicly visible signs acknowledging their contribution to a more fire adapted community. We are planning treatments at Ft. Tuthill County Park, which sees more than 100,000 visitors a year, and will build a kiosk to explaining fire and forest management efforts and the responsibilities of people living in a fire adapted community. To raise support for the increasing pace and scale of treatments in our forests, GFFP will hold a harvesting methods workshop to help people understand novel harvesting approaches like cable and helicopter logging. As we work to create resilient forests and safe and sustainable communities, we look forward to another successful year.

FAC Contacts:

Mark Brehl
markbrehl@azsf.gov
(928) 637-0547

Anne Mottek Lucas
mottekconsulting@infomagic.net
(928) 213-0413

<http://www.gffp.org/>

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



Fire smart and beautiful describes the landscaping of the winners of GFFP's 2015 Fire Adapted Landscaping Contest.

Photo: Mark Brehl



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (IPSFC) is a collaborative group of concerned citizens along with representatives from the private sector, non-profit organizations and local, state and federal agencies. The IPSFC is working diligently to help balance the scales of the wildland urban interface and fire adapted communities. We are committed to developing a strong social, ecological and sustainable forest community.

Recent actions have included doing risk evaluations for homeowners, conducting fuels reduction demonstration projects and hosting tours of them, giving presentations at homeowners' association meetings and other venues, launching a website and Facebook page. Slash pickup days have also been scheduled throughout the Island Park area, and 5,000 postcards for home evaluations were sent to owners of homes and other property in the area. A full-time project coordinator, two outreach representatives and two fuels specialists provide a core to coordinate and carry out this work.

Wildfire Awareness Week reached about 400 people in 2015. Discussion topics included wildfire risk to homes, disaster preparedness, insurance coverage for homes and property, and firefighting responsibilities of the various agencies in the area. There were also games and prizes for kids,



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

opportunities to meet Smokey Bear, and demonstrations by the Island Park Volunteer Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service and the Community Emergency Response Team.

Outreach representatives also contacted 300 people during the 2015 summer season, handing out brochures and talking with property owners about IPSFC and its offerings, including the risk evaluations, Wildfire Awareness Week, and slash pickup days. As a result of the postcard mailings and face-to-face contacts, IPSFC received 156 requests from property owners to complete risk evaluations on their properties. The first 121 evaluations were completed by the end of 2015, with the remainder set as a top priority for the spring of 2016.

To conclude the summer's activities, the second annual slash pickup days took place in September. Homeowners in subdivisions as far south as Pinehaven and as far north as Henry's Lake put slash by the side of the road for IPSFC to haul. During a three-week period, 960 cubic yards of slash—

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community



**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>

Right: Fuels cut and ready for removal at one of the first four defensible space demonstration projects of the collaborative. Photos: Jessica Simpson

enough woody fuels to fill about 80 10-wheeled dump trucks—were hauled away and disposed of.

The bar is set high for 2016. IPSFC and its partners plan to improve on these programs and activities, including completing six more demonstration properties to show what properly mitigated homes and lots look like. The summer may bring wildfire challenges, but Island Park is committed to developing strong social and ecological communities to meet them.

FAC Contact:

Les Fadness

ipsustainablefire@gmail.com

(208) 680-6852

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
The Nature Conservancy—Idaho (Flat Ranch)
USDA Forest Service—Caribou-Targhee National Forest (Ashton and Dubois Ranger Districts)
and above all, homeowners and property owners of the Island Park Caldera



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP) is a multi-stakeholder collaborative working to improve forest resiliency and community safety. Both the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and Fire Learning Network play important roles in the partnership.

WKRP has successfully leveraged funds from multiple sources to support its work. BIA Reserved Treaty Rights Lands program funds have enabled the hiring of an Assistant Fire Management Officer, a Wildland Fire Operations Specialist and a Prescribed Fire and Fuels Technician. The tribe is administering the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) and has developed an MOU with the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council and Salmon River Restoration Council, to facilitate qualification development under National Incident Management System. The new positions and IQCS are critical to building the local capacity needed to increase our Cohesive Strategy implementation efforts.

Among these efforts are Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX); in 2015 a Tribal Representative, Incident Commander, Wildland Fire Operation Specialist and several others took part in TREX. Our handcrew also prepared fireline for the TREX and for Forest Service controlled burns. On wildfires, we engaged a Tribal Representative

on the Nickowitz Fire and Gasquet Complex, and responded to incidents throughout northern California.

WKRP has developed a new approach to cultural resource surveys that includes Cultural Vegetation Characteristics as indicators for site-specific management. These efforts are being led by three staff. We are also building on existing skillsets of partner organizations in the fields of wildlife, forestry and botanical data collection and LiDAR validation. Eighty food-grove assessments have been completed, providing valuable information on stand dynamics and cultural food and fiber resource considerations.

Our current focus includes further expansion of WKRP activities to achieve our vision of establishing and maintaining resilient ecosystems, communities and economies guided by cultural and contemporary knowledge through a truly collaborative process that effectuates the revitalization of human relationships with our dynamic landscape.

With a multi-organizational, integrated networking approach, the partnership has begun planning and implementation in and near the Western Klamath Mountains FLN landscape. The Somes Bar Integrated Wildland Fire Management and Capacity Development Project will demonstrate the use of linear treatments to confine larger prescribed burn units and safely scale up fire management activities. As we work

Karuk Tribe



Working in CECILVILLE, FORKS OF SALMON, HAPPY CAMP, ORLEANS, SAWYERS BAR, SEIAD and SOMES BAR, and with INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES in northern California

through this process, lessons learned will help formulate the next pilot projects, in the Happy Camp and Salmon River communities.

KEY PARTNERS

Bureau of Indian Affairs
CAL FIRE
Deer Creek GIS
Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression Inc.
Happy Camp Fire Safe Council
Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council
Inter-Tribal Timber Council
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Fisheries



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

FAC Contact:

Bill Tripp
btripp@karuk.us
(530) 627-3446 x 3023



Participants in the fall 2015 Klamath River TREX practiced the use of fire for environmental education, community protection, cultural resource enhancement and eco-cultural revitalization.

Photos: Stormy Staats/KSMC

Northern California Prescribed Fire Council
Northwest California Fire Science Consortium
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department
Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
Salmon River Restoration Council
Salmon River Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Stanford University
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of Oregon
USDA Forest Service—Klamath NF, Shasta-Trinity NF, Six Rivers NF; Pacific Southwest Research Station; Region 5 State and Private Forestry
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service—Fortuna Service Center, Yreka Service Center
Watershed Research and Training Center
Western Region Strategy Committee

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

The New Jersey Pinelands are “ground zero” for wildland-urban interface (WUI) in the state. These pine barrens are an extremely flammable ecosystem. The area, in south-central New Jersey, has become popular with retirees, who are mainly new arrivals with 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 conducts workshops with Barnegat Township communities to keep them informed of the risk reduction efforts being made. Two Firewise Communities—Horizons and Mirage—have talented, motivated liaisons who 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 the 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.

At the state level, we work with the environmental community to promote wildland fire resiliency through the existing Sustainable Jersey Program. This has involved developing a suite of emergency preparedness actions tied to that program. To reduce their risk and be certified as “resilient”



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

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



under the program, communities must 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 develop their own Fire Safe Councils.

New Jersey Fire Safety Council



Working in Pinelands in south-central New Jersey

Being part of the FAC Learning Network has been very beneficial for New Jersey. We have learned about the value and potential of Fire Safe Councils at both the local and statewide levels, and as a result have formed a statewide council, and plan to 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 preparedness programs, and to coordinate those efforts through a statewide Fire Safe Council that trains local members and targets funding to motivated councils where preparedness efforts will provide the best return on investment. In this way we hope to bring additional state and federal resources to New Jersey’s FAC efforts.

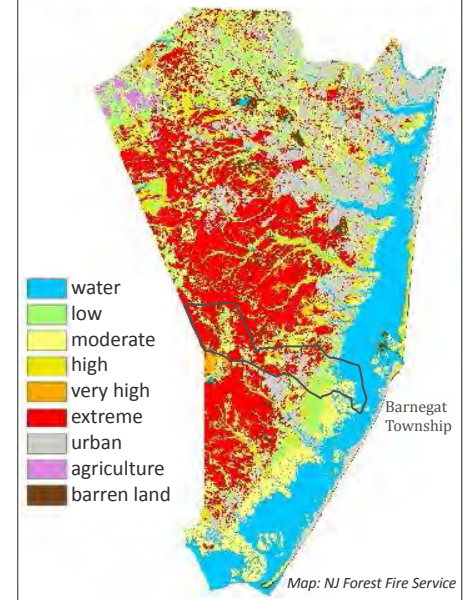
FAC Contact:

William F. Brash, Jr.
forester82@aol.com
(732) 890-0725

KEY PARTNERS

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

Wildfire Fuel Hazard for Ocean County



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



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Project Wildfire's flagship program, FireFree, had a burst of growth in 2015, with the spring event breaking the record set in 2014 with a 27 percent increase in participation. This spring surge suggests that more residents are preparing for fire season before smoke is on the horizon. All the agencies involved in wildfire prevention and preparedness were able to coordinate messages well ahead of fire season—and local residents not only prepared for fire season, but offered aid to parts of the state affected by large wildfires.

Central Oregon also hosted its first Prescribed Fire Training Exchange in May 2015. With input from partners, Project Wildfire produced a range of outreach tools about prescribed fire. The 10-day media campaign reached



FireFree activities led by Project Wildfire—such as slash disposal opportunities—support residents' efforts to make their properties better prepared for wildfire.

Photo: Alison Green



The first Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (Trex) in Oregon took place in May 2015. Project Wildfire led the media outreach efforts, which included a TV commercial, radio PSAs and a printed handout explaining the benefits of prescribed fire.

Photo: Alison Green

more than 80,000 residents, about half the population of Deschutes County.

Another opportunity for shared learning was made when a local fire district hosted five firefighters from the United Kingdom for two weeks. The firefighters—from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Fire Department—visited the National Interagency Fire Center, Central Oregon Dispatch and Project Wildfire, and fought a fire at Canyon Creek. The Hampshire personnel learned more about how wildfires are managed in the United States using central Oregon as a model. While there are wildland fires in the U.K., they are not as common—or as large—as in the U.S. West. For the hosts, sharing information and experiences with other fire professionals was an opportunity to better acknowledge our fire risk and take action on the appropriate levels to make central Oregon more fire adapted.

The knowledge brought to Deschutes County from being part of the FAC Learning Network has been more valuable than Project Wildfire had even hoped for when joining the

Project Wildfire



Working in DESCHUTES COUNTY, Oregon

including 7 CWPP areas

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

and 19 Firewise Communities

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

network. 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 implement similar ideas in Deschutes County. Looking forward, Project Wildfire plans to capitalize on relationships built within the network to implement a successful training exchange in the Pacific Northwest.

FAC Contact:

Alison Green
projectwildfire.pw@gmail.com
(541) 322-7129

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



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

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 recent 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 provides 70 jobs to the rural community. The assessment was key to developing the cohesive forest restoration strategy, working within current federal forest management guidelines and land allocations, and receiving support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in its effort to conserve northern spotted owl habitat.

The Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy for the Rogue Basin covers 4.6 million acres. It identifies and prioritizes 50,000 acres for treatment over the next 20 years. Projects will promote resilient landscapes in a



Students in grades 6 and 7 clear brush near their school. SOFRC received one of the 65 Firewise grants for community projects awarded by the National Fire Protection Association in 2015. SOFRC, the Applegate Fire District, Ruch School, and the BLM partnered to make Ruch school—and their community—better prepared for fire.

Photo: SOFRC

changing climate, and support diverse habitats, fire-adapted communities, economic sustainability and ecosystem services valued by the community. Integrated risk assessments are key to the strategy, and will help determine priority needs and opportunities across the basin.

This strategy meets the goals of the Western Action Plan of the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy, and is informing the update of the fire plans of Jackson and Josephine Counties. This process encourages coordination in local efforts to integrate the three Cohesive Strategy goals—resilient forests, fire adapted communities and coordinated wildfire planning and suppression activity.

SOFRC has also completed a climate adaptation action plan for the Rogue Basin. The plan guides forest restoration planning and implementation in a changing climate. Steps are being made to meet goals outlined in the plan, including the Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy.

Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative



**Working in
JACKSON and JOSEPHINE COUNTIES,
Oregon**

FAC Contact:

George McKinley
collaborative@jeffnet.org
www.sofrc.org

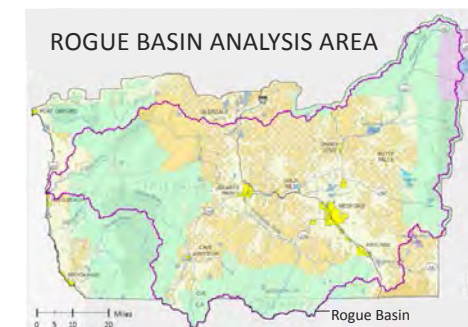
KEY PARTNERS

Applegate Fire Plan
Bureau of Land Management—
Medford District
City of Ashland
City of Grants Pass
Jackson County
Jackson County Fire District 3
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



KEY RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

- Management recommendations based on historic fire return intervals, site productivity and future climatic conditions
- Reliance on a fine-grained approach covering a landscape scale
- 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
- Highlight economic benefits of planning and implementation efficiencies of restoration



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

With two states, five counties and seven fire districts, 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 19 organizations, called the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, facilitates information exchange, resource sharing and coordinated outreach and communication across jurisdictional boundaries. The team recently completed an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan that contains action plans to help create communities where citizens are engaged and active in preparing for wildfire.

Until 2011, a non-profit organization provided substantial support to Lake Tahoe communities working to reduce fire risk. When the nonprofit went bankrupt, it left communities without support and financial assistance. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is focused on rebuilding support functions for



South Tahoe High School students help show off the Ember House, an activity for kids to learn about how embers catch houses on fire.

Photo: Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

the public, and increasing public involvement in decision-making processes. The team has established a new workgroup dedicated to forming FAC leadership councils and creating a Tahoe Basin-wide Fire Adapted Community Alliance.

Failure gains value when participating in a learning network. Lake Tahoe organizations share their successes and challenges, and in turn learn 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 Net 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.

Wildfire is inevitable in the Lake Tahoe Basin, but catastrophic fire is preventable. Through FAC programs,



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)

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team



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

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. Increased burning will be facilitated by: exchanging resources, knowledge, and training to build the skill base in the Basin; increasing structure and

FAC Contact:

Forest Schafer
fschafer@nltfpd.net
(775) 690-7506

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

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.

For more information about the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, visit the website <http://tahoefft.org>.



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

FAC Learning Network

State-Wide Efforts

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 utility and insurance 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.



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

A recent area of focus as part of the FAC Learning Network has been to increase wildfire preparedness among residents in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) through development of an innovative mobile application. This includes 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 applies current technology to make the assessment process more convenient for in-field implementation and allows 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 is being

California Fire Safe Council



Working throughout the state of California



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

expanded. New website content highlights successes of local FSCs and Firewise Communities, and an online forum allows 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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Contact: info@cafiresafecouncil.org
(626) 335-7426

KEY PARTNERS

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

The California Fire Safe Council manages a grants clearing-house for the state, and works 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.



CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MISSION

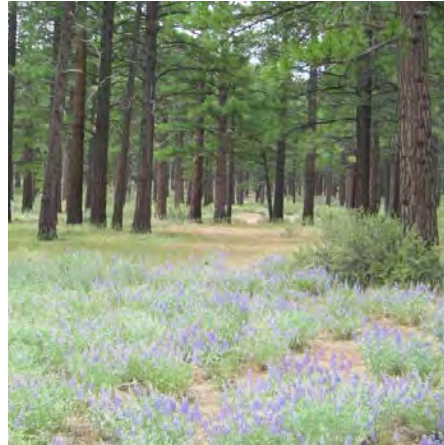
Mobilizing Californians to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Nevada Land Trust has firsthand experience with fire in the wildland-urban interface: We had two major, devastating fires literally in our own back yard, in November 2011 and January 2012. And we worked with residents and local agencies on restoration projects following both. It is our vision that we be able to be active partners in helping other communities across the state be better prepared in the face of the inevitable next occurrence of wildfire.

The latter part of 2015 was an important fact-finding phase for our organization as we worked to build the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities. We have discovered that we can rely on peers in the FAC Learning Network to help us speed the process. We have been able to contact network members regularly, asking lots of questions and increasing our knowledge base daily. In addition to valuable connections online and by phone, we attended a useful grant workshop hosted by FAC Net leaders in northern California. We also took part in the second annual Nevada State FAC Network summit and the Cohesive Strategy Summit hosted by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). In addition, we met with the NDF, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest



Galena Forest is one of the potential sites for the first pilot projects of the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities. *Photo: NLT*

Service about our potential role as a fiscal agent and community partner to assist them in achieving their Cohesive Strategy objectives.

Moving forward, in early 2016 we are working with the BLM, NDF, the U.S. Forest Service, Living with Fire and our local fire officials to refine our network's structure and mission. These important investments of time and partnership-building at the beginning will help ensure that we can meet the needs of all stakeholders as we move onward. As we work through this process, we continue to reach out to our FAC Learning Network partners to better understand all of the models we may be able to use elements of, enabling their lessons to help us build a robust network for Nevada.

Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities

Contact: Tracy Visser
t.visser@nevadalandtrust.org
(775) 851-5180

KEY PARTNERS

Bureau of Land Management
Living with Fire
Nevada Division of Forestry
USDA Forest Service



Working throughout the state of Nevada

NETWORK VISION

We will be active partners in helping communities across the state be better prepared in the face of our inevitable wildfires.



Above: Steamboat Creek habitat destroyed by the Washoe Drive Fire in January 2012.

Right: Hydroseeding following the November 2011 Caughlin Fire, which introduced the Nevada Land Trust to fire in its back yard. *Photos: NLT*



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Fire Adapted Communities

LEARNING NETWORK

Washington state experienced its two largest wildfire seasons in 2014 and 2015. As a result, wildfire is on many peoples' minds and is a high priority discussion topic in the state. We're hearing the phrase "adapting to wildfire," and the call for more fire adapted communities is increasing in the state as well.

The Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is helping to accelerate this by promoting and facilitating in-person discussions and webinars, getting FAC issues onto meeting agendas and websites, and by giving presentations. This FAC outreach is coming not only from the central staff team, but from the steering committee and community members as well.

During the 2015 wildfire season, the network interacted with incident management teams and Pacific Northwest Prevention Team #4, took part in various recovery workshops, met with agency leaders and government officials, and gave presentations at the Wildfires and Us Summit in Wenatchee. Through numerous less formal conversations we have also led introduced FAC concepts onto the discussion list of state agencies, local governments and non-governmental entities.

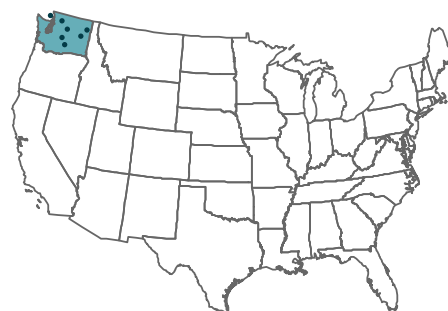


The Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC), with support from the Bureau of Land Management, facilitates learning and provides a means to invest resources in member communities around the state that are working to create fire adapted communities. We provide participating communities and others with resources to engage with others in the network, thereby increasing local capacity and elevating our collective ability to adapt communities' relationships to the complex fire issues we face.

Initial members were selected to represent Washington's geographic and ecological diversity. They also represent a cross-section of community size and organizational structure. This diversity is designed to promote sharing and learning across Washington.



Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network



Contact:

Ryan Anderson
ryan@scwrcd.org

Initial Member Communities:

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition
Flowery Trails Community Association
Hidden Valley/Swauk
Lincoln County Conservation District
Okanogan Conservation District
San Juan Island
Seattle City Light-Skagit Hydroelectric Project
Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition

STEERING COMMITTEE

Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense—Joint Base Lewis McChord
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Kittitas County Conservation District
Kittitas County Fire & Rescue
Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group
The Nature Conservancy
USDA Forest Service
Washington Department of Emergency Management
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Top: Surviving ponderosa pines, about a year after the 2014 Chiwaukum Fire near Leavenworth.

Left: The Yakima Valley Fire Districts and the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Community coalition drew people with games to their booth where they shared information of interest to WUI residents.

Photos: Ryan Anderson/SCWRCD



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 Michelle Medley-Daniel (michelle@thewatershedcenter.com).

Indexes

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



		Austin Fire Department	Boise Fire Department	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Dovetail Partners	FireWise of Southwest Colorado	Florida Forest Service	Forest Stewards Guild	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community	Karuk Tribe	New Jersey Fire Safety Council	Project Wildfire	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team
state:		TX	ID	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	OR	OR	NV/CA
WILDFIRE HAZARD AND RESPONSE	WUI training for fire depts	E	E	S	E		E	E	S		S		E	S			S
	wildfire evacuation plan	N	N	N			N		S		S	N	S	E	S	N	S
	community preplanning and utilization of ICS	N	E	E	E	E	N		S*	S	S		E	E		N	S*
	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	S	S	S	E*	S	S		S
COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK (Non-Residential)	risk mapping	N	N	N		S	E	S	S	S*	S	E	E	S	E	S	
	watershed management	N		S		S		E	S	S*	N	S	E	S		S	S
	community assessments	E	N	E	E	S	N	E	E	S	S	N	E	S	E	S	E
RESIDENTIAL VALUES AT RISK	home ignition zone (HIZ) assessments & apps	E*	N	E	E	S	N	E	E	S*	S			S	E	S	E*
	engagement with HOAs	S	S	E	S	S	N	S*	E	S	S	E		E	E	N	S

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 Stewards Guild




Many FAC hubs provide or assist with home assessments as well as defensible space projects.



Photos: North Lake Tahoe FPD

FAC Learning Network Members' Resources & Strategies



		state:																
		Austin Fire Department TX	Boise Fire Department ID	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council GA	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition WA	Coalition for the Upper South Platte CO	Dovetail Partners MN	FireWise of Southwest Colorado CO	Florida Forest Service FL	Forest Stewards Guild NM	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership AZ	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community ID/MT	Karuk Tribe CA	New Jersey Fire Safety Council NJ	Project Wildfire OR	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative OR	Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team NV/CA	
PLANS AND REGULATIONS	CWPPs	N	E	S	S	E	S	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	E*	S	S	E*	
	hazard mitigation action plan	S	E	S		S	E	S	S		S	N	S	N	S	S	S	
	CCRs, codes, ordinances	E	E	S						S*			E	E	N	S		
	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	E	N	N		
	Firewise	S	S	E	S*	S	E	S	E	N	S	E	S	E	E	N		
	Fire Safe Councils				S*		N			S		S	E		N	N		
	chipping program		S	E		S	E	S*		S			S	S		S		
	awareness day/ week	N	N	E	N	S	N	S*	E	E	S	N	S	S	S		S	
	trainings	E	E	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	E	N	S*	
	other fuel management	N	S	S		E	S/E		E	S	S	N	E	S*	S	N	S*	
	local WUI tax or fee										N*		N	S				
	vegetation disposal	E		S		E	N	E		N	S			S	S*			
RESOURCES	grant & funding directory			S	S*		N			S		N		S	S			
	dedicated FAC staff	S	S	E		E	E					N	E	S		S	S	

KEY

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



Chipper days are held in communities across the country.



Photos: Pam Wilson/FireWise of SW CO, Gloria Erickson, Frank Riley/CCRCD



FAC Net works with many Firewise communities



Photos: Florida Forest Service

FAC Learning Network Members' Public Outreach & Partnerships



state:		Austin Fire Department	Boise Fire Department	Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council	Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Dovetail Partners	FireWise of Southwest Colorado	Florida Forest Service	Forest Stewards Guild	Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Island Park Sustainable Fire Community	Karuk Tribe	New Jersey Fire Safety Council	Project Wildfire	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team
		TX	ID	GA	WA	CO	MN	CO	FL	NM	AZ	ID/MT	CA	NJ	OR	OR	NV/CA
PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INPUT	FAC regional workshops	E	N	S	E		E	E	E	E	N		N	S	S	E	N
	community / public meetings	N	E	E	E	S	E	S	S	S	S		S	E	S	E	E
	public demos / learning sites	E	E	S		S	N	S	E	S	N	E	E	E	S		S
	FAC brochures	N	E	E	E		N	N	N	N	N	N		S	E	N	E*
	PSAs, videos	N	N	S			N	E			N		E	E			
	FAC website / blog	N	N	E	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	N	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	E*		N
PARTNERS	FAC LN self-assessment tool	N	N	N		E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	E	N
	FAC steering committee	E	E	E		S	N		N		N					S	
	partner learning exchanges	E	N	E	E	E	N/E	E		N	N	N	E	S			
	state partnerships	E	E	S	S	S	N	E	E	S	S	E	N	E	S	S	
	regional partnerships	N	E	S	E		N/E	E	E	S	S	E	E	E	S	S	
	national partnerships	N	E	S	S		N/E				E	E	E	E	S	S	

KEY

S = stable

E = expanding

N = new

* = special expertise



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., CUSP, Forest Stewards Guild

<http://fireadaptednetwork.org>

