What is a fire adapted community?
A fire adapted community is a community that understands its risk and takes action before, during and after the fire in order for their community to be more resilient to wildfire. Fire adapted community members are informed and prepared, collaboratively planning and taking action to better live with wildland fire.

At its core, the fire adapted communities (or FAC) concept is a framework to help us better coexist with fire. FAC is not a one-size fits all approach, a checklist, or a specific set of actions a community must take. FAC is also not an end point. Your community is always changing; change is constant in our social and political environments, ecosystems, and economies.

The beauty of FAC as a framework is that communities of all sizes, economies, policies, etc. can take ideas and concepts and adapt them to meet their local needs. Each community will improve their wildfire resilience using steps and strategies unique to them. You know your community best! Broadly speaking, the more actions a community takes to improve their wildfire outcomes, the more fire adapted they become.

Who should be part of a fire adapted community?
Because wildfire risk is shared among all who live and work in a community, the fire adapted community framework stresses that everyone shares responsibility. Stakeholders in a fire adapted community include residents, businesses, policy-makers, land managers and emergency responders, as well as local, state, tribal and federal governments.

How will we know when our community is finally fire adapted?
There is no defined end-point for communities striving to live more safely with wildfire. Our communities are always changing: new residents are moving in, economic drivers ebb and flow, and natural vegetation continues to grow! As a result, our fire adaptation efforts must be ready to adapt to fit our communities’ evolving needs. Collaboration with local partners (including residents, community organizations, agency partners and more) often helps communities identify and mitigate their changing risks.

Below: The Fire Adapted Communities Graphic shows the many approaches and pathways a community can take to become more fire adapted. The FAC Graphic and Facilitator's Guide is available at: [https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resource/fire-adapted-communities-graphic-and-facilitators-guide/](https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resource/fire-adapted-communities-graphic-and-facilitators-guide/)
What is the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network?
The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) is a national network of people working to build sustainable wildfire resilience capacity in fire-prone communities. The Network is the result of a partnership among the Watershed Research and Training Center, The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and Department of Interior as well as the many wildfire resilience practitioners who make up our membership.

Why do we need to build wildfire resilience?
For the last 100 years, fire suppression policies have kept fire from playing its natural role. As a result, many of our fire-dependent ecosystems are overgrown--limiting their function and posing a threat to communities. Fire is a natural and necessary element for most of our natural areas; when it is excluded, landscapes are prone to unnaturally severe and damaging wildfires that are getting worse. We need to find ways to restore fire to people and places while also ensuring our homes and communities are capable of withstanding its impacts.

What is FAC Net working toward?
FAC Net’s mission is to connect and support people and communities who are striving to live more safely with wildfire. The existing wildfire suppression model is costly and insufficient alone to safeguard our places. Fire adaptation is an alternative which allows communities to prepare for wildland fires, mitigate their impacts, and recover more effectively when they inevitably occur. The Network has the following objectives:

- Demonstrate fire adaptation in a variety of contexts representative of the diversity of communities with wildfire risk in the US;
- Innovate and experiment with new practices to enhance fire adaptation before, during and after wildfires;
- Share and spread knowledge and practice among Network members; and
- Spark and support the fire adaptation efforts of other practitioners in locations outside the Network.

By modeling a viable alternative to the current fire management paradigm, FAC Net members are leading the change toward fire resilience in the United States.

How Can I Join FAC Net?
We welcome individuals and organizations actively working on fire adaptation to join FAC Net as affiliate members. When you become a member, you commit to advancing the practice of fire adaptation and to sharing and learning with other community wildfire resilience practitioners.

Join FAC Net as an affiliate member and:

- connect with others working on fire resilience;
- access resources and tools;
- communicate with state and national leaders, program staff and decision-makers; and
- learn from others through training and learning groups, peer connections and professional staff support. Visit https://fireadaptednetwork.org/join/ to learn more!