



Threats and Hazards Identification Workshop

Wildfire, Droughts, and the Wildland Urban Interface



Ashley Blazina

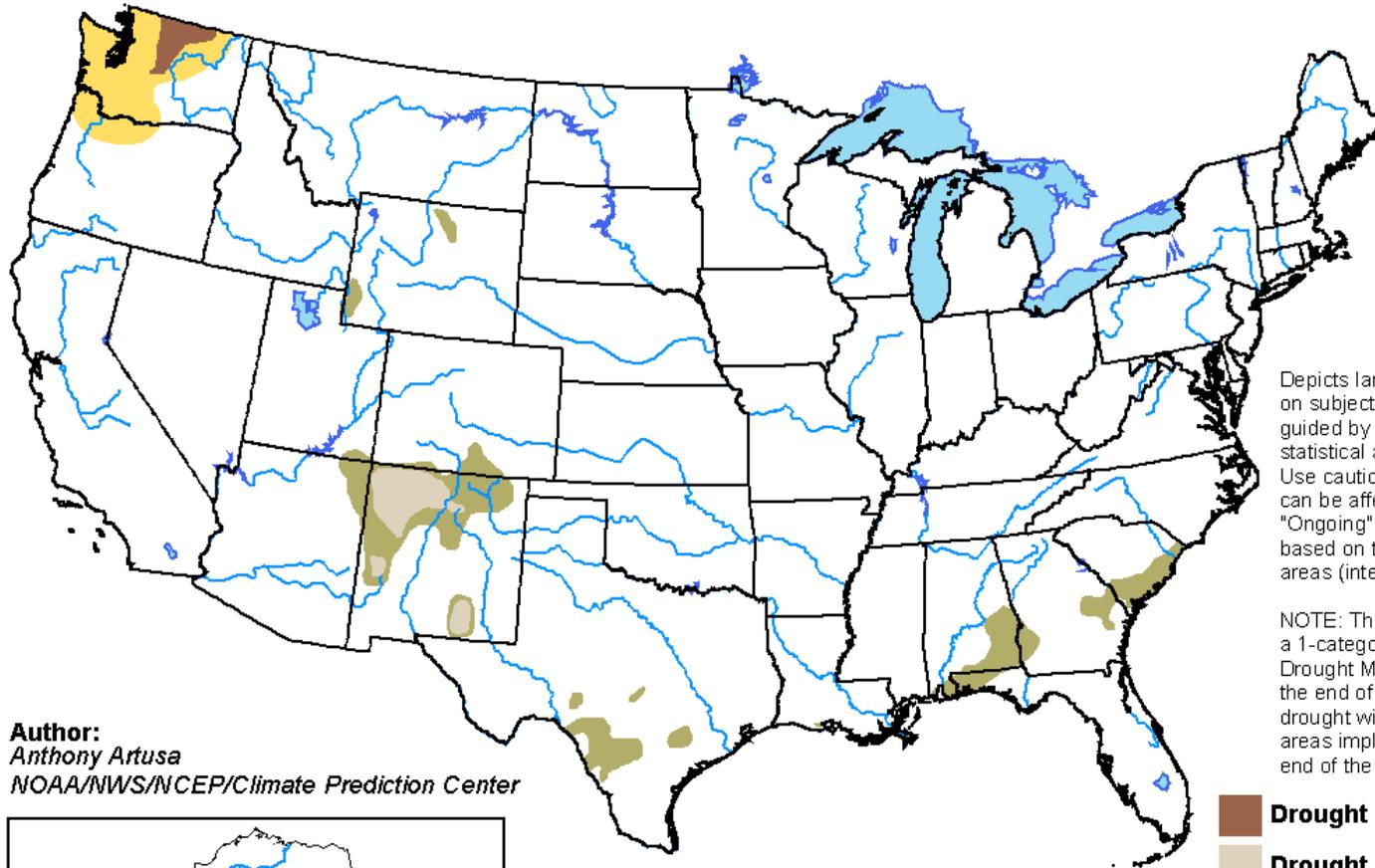
Community Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator
Washington Department of Natural Resources

May 1, 2019

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 18 - July 31, 2019
Released April 18



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

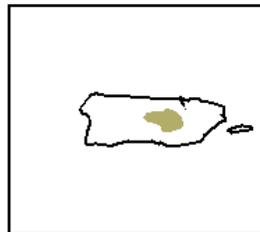
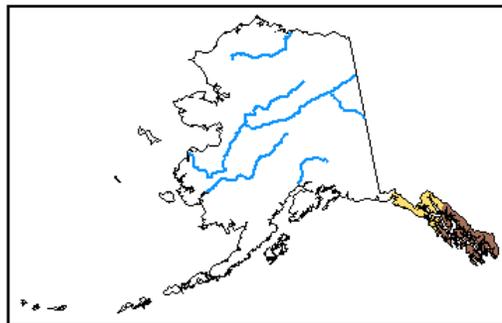
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



Current:
Mid 20%
Relative
Humidity (RH)

Typical Season
Average:
Mid 30% to
High 30% RH

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook May 2 19



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Significant Wildland Fire Potential	
- Above Normal	— Geographic Area Boundary
- Below Normal	- Predictive Services Area Boundary
D Normal	-- State Border

■ ■ ■
 Puerto Rico



Map produced by
 Predictive Services,
 National Interagency Fire Center
 Boise, Idaho
 Issued April 1, 2019
 Next issue May 1, 2019

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Washington wildland fire outlook

Washington State Wildfires

How the two halves differ

Westside

- Cooler/Wetter Climate
- Shorter Summer Fire Season
- Fewer Fires – Lightning
- Heavier Fuels-Brush/Timber
- More Intense Fires

Current:

- More Fires: > 95% Human Caused
- King, Pierce and Snohomish Avg. 2,500/yr. Natural Vegetation Fires

Eastside

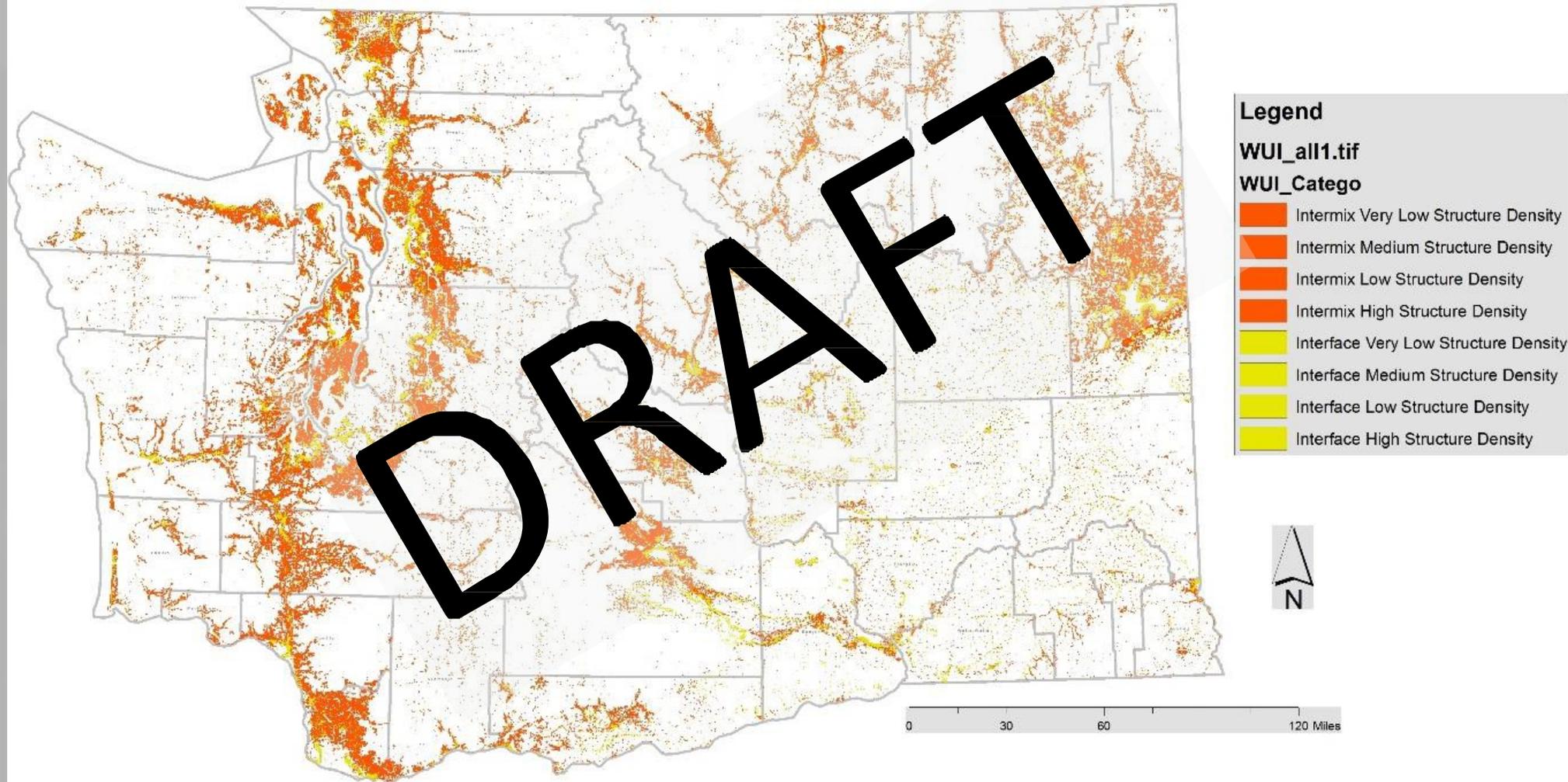
- Warmer/Dryer Climate
- Longer Summer Fire Season
- More Fires - Lightning
- Lighter Fuels-Grasses/Timber
- Less Intense Fires

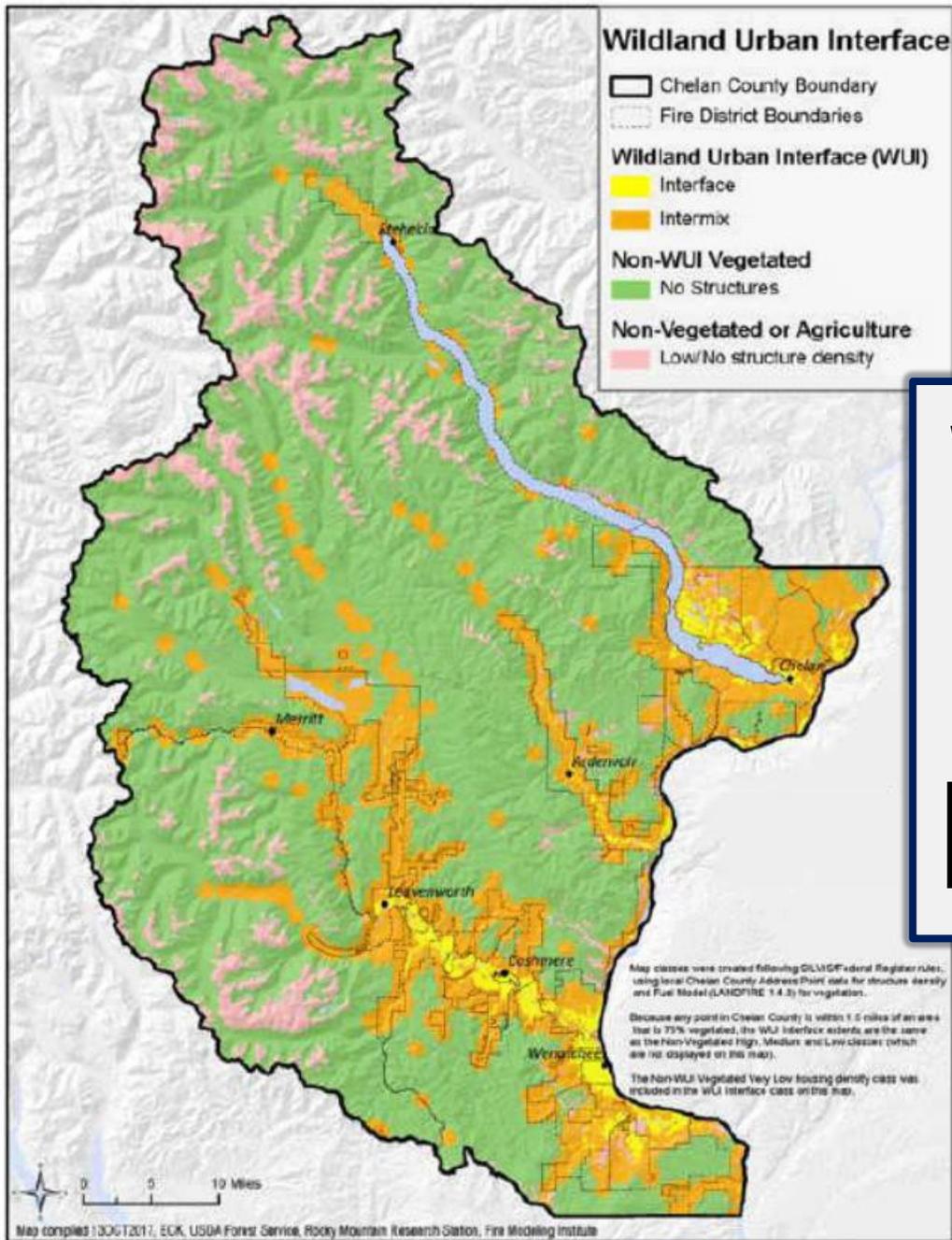
Current:

- More Intense Fires
- Northeastern Washington Avg. 600/yr. Natural Veg. Fires, Lightning & Human

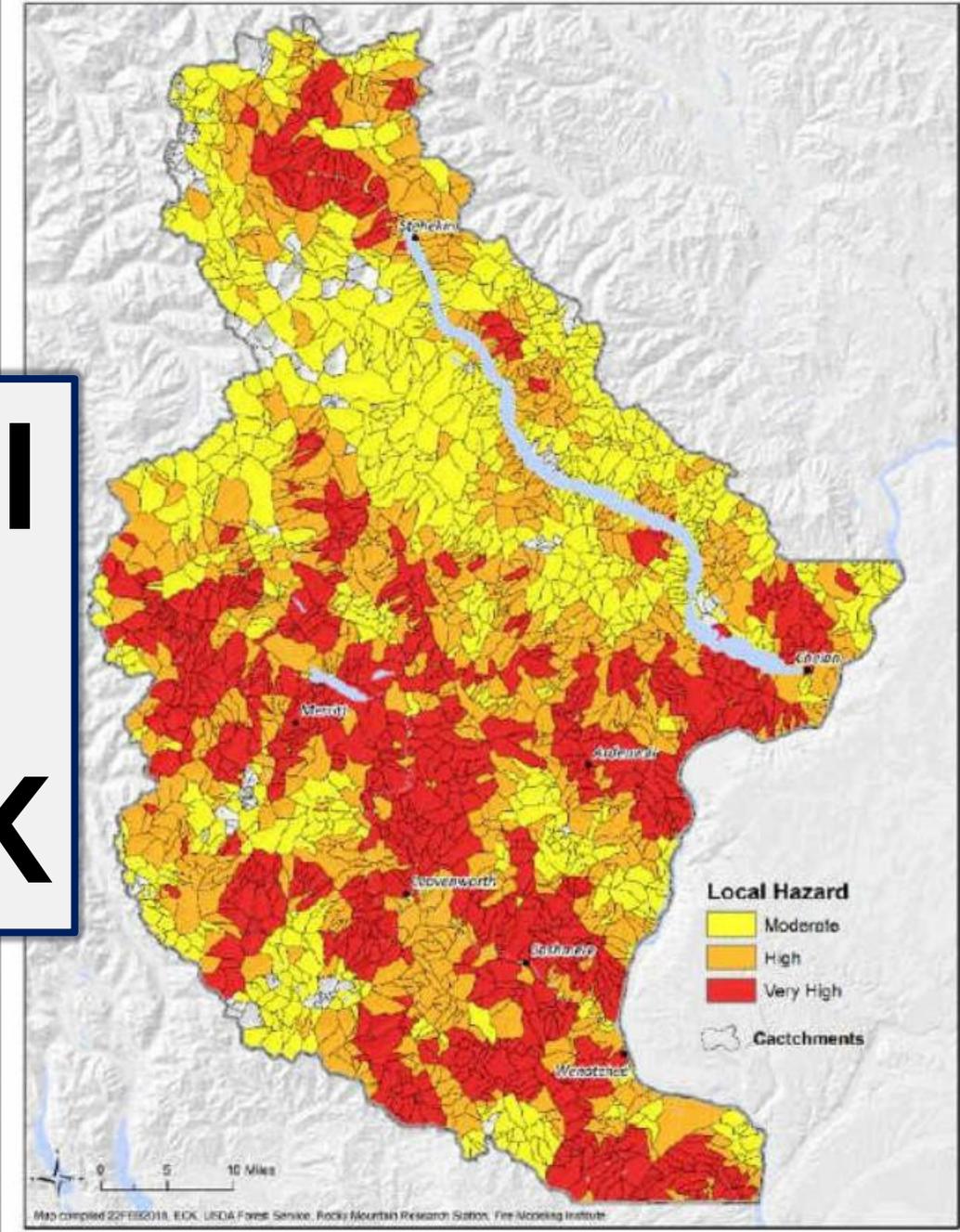
Washington State WUI: Version 1.1

Wildland Urban Interface Map V1.1



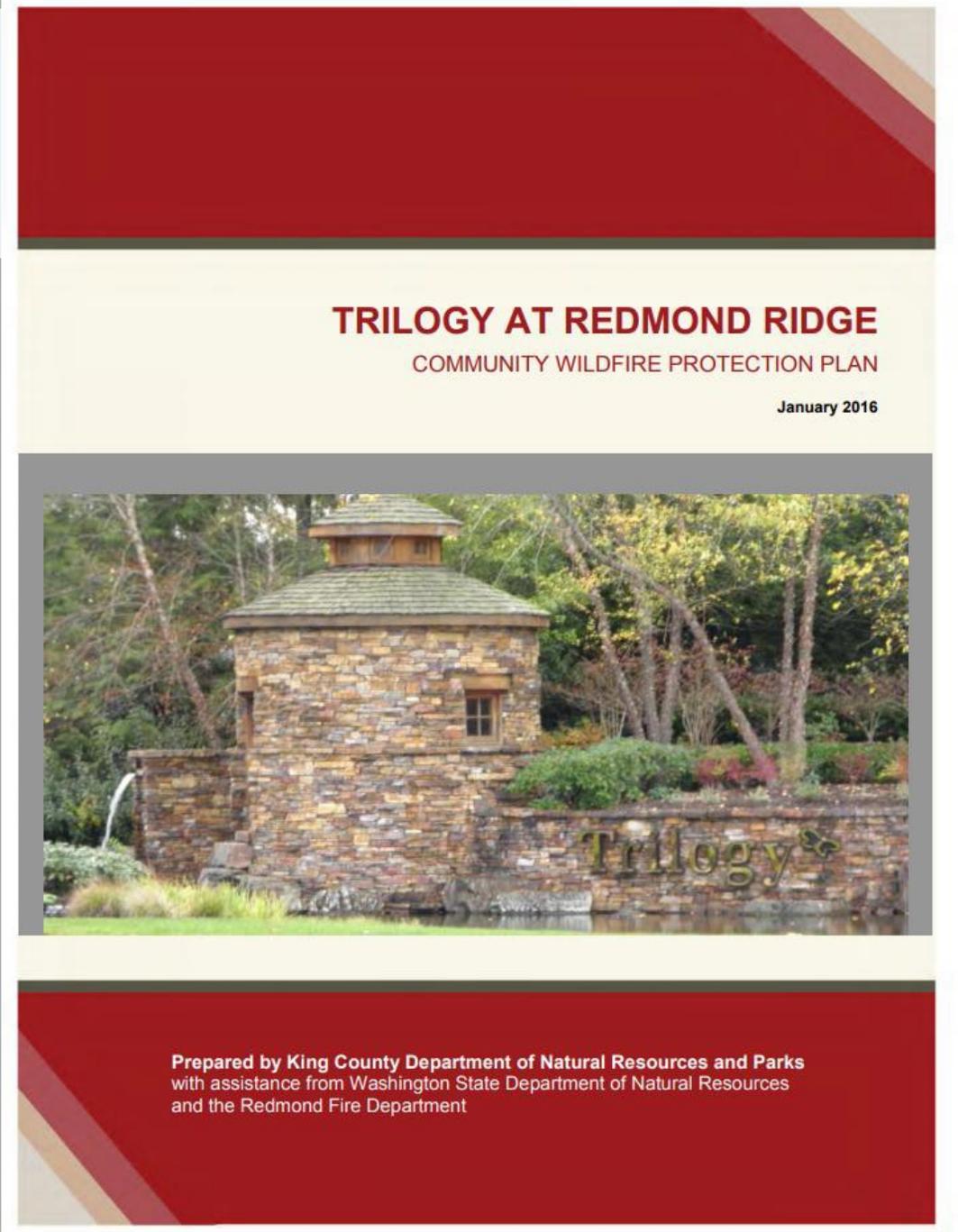


**WUI
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RISK**



Before a Fire

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning and CWPP Integration
- Risk MAP Program
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
- **Main Requirement for PDMGP:**
 - Applicants must have, or be formally annexed to, a **FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.**



After a Fire

- **Community Recovery Planning Resources:**
<https://www.fema.gov/community-recovery-management-toolkit>
- **Flood After the Fire Toolkit:**
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/159559>
- **Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program**
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Post Fire**
 - This is made available when there is a **Presidential Declaration of Disaster in WA**



Source: Susan Cannon

Mutual Aid Resources



- Eastside Fire Wildland Team
 - 4 Wildland Firefighting Brush Engines
 - All Line Firefighters: NWCG Wildland “Red Card” Training
 - All Fire Engines & Ladder Truck w/ Wildland gear, PPE and Fire Shelters
 - New Tactical Drone Program Trails, Water Rescue and Wildfires
- 4 + DNR Wildland Fire Engines
 - DNR Fire Overhead/FFs
 - DNR Camp Crews
 - Helicopter Resources in Olympia
 - DNR Co-Op Wildland Fire Response Agreement
 - Other County, State and Federal Firefighting Resources as needed

WA Department of Natural Resources



Source: Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan

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Fire Prevention and Preparedness Program

- Support current work
- Build capacity in high-need, high-risk areas
- Connect communities with resources:
 - Mentors
 - Funding
 - Technical expertise

Landowner Assistance



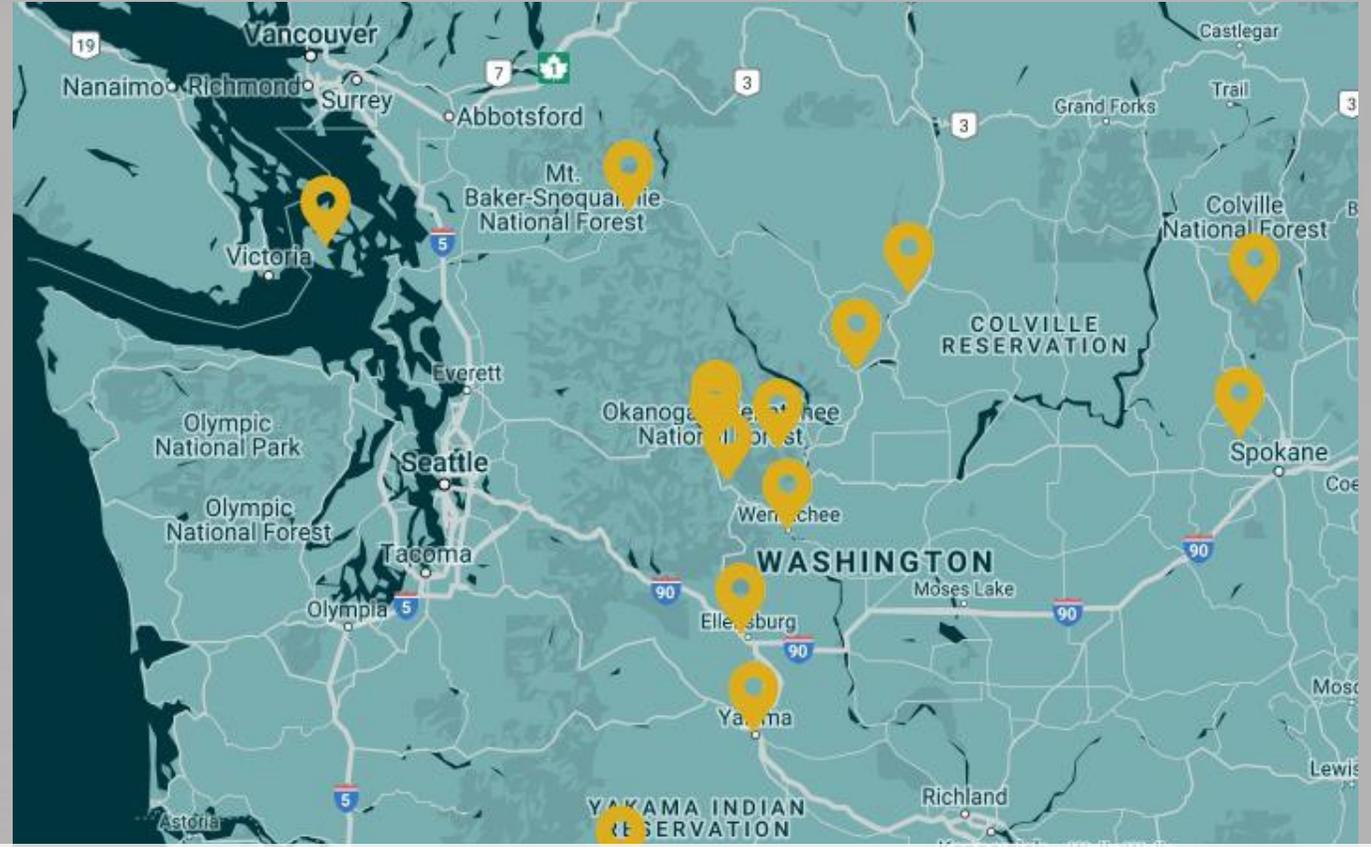
- Home and property assessments
- Property planning
- Workshops, seminars
- Cost-share program



1. Complete a neighborhood assessment
2. Create a committee
3. Develop an Action Plan
4. Have an annual Firewise Day
5. Invest one hour per dwelling unit
6. Submit application for recognition



Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network



Before, During, and After Fire



Source: Dave Lasky



Source: Dave Lasky



Source: Michael Ciaglo