Collective action is the way forward to community fire adaptation.

Our network members demonstrated their commitment in 2019 to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, and help our communities better live with fire. Our best work happens when our members commit to share openly with one another to celebrate each other's successes and learn from our mistakes. Meaningful partnerships and local action will mean that we can continue to make headway living with wildfire in Washington.

- Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Director, Hilary

WE CONNECT HARD-WORKING COMMUNITIES
FOCUSED ON FIRE

The Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC) is a peer learning network that supports local action, connects people to resources, facilitates results, and influences and informs on-the-ground projects to help Washington better adapt to wildfire. We're leading the way to better prepare our communities before, during, and after fires by engaging communities, agencies, and organizations to develop and act on place-based strategies and priorities.

2019 AT A GLANCE

Thanks to the work of our resourceful members and the support of partners, our network has achieved great things!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
CARLTON COMPLEX RECOVERY (CCR)

CCR partnered with American Red Cross to co-sponsor six “Fire Strong” workshops. A total of 552 participants attended the workshops, which included presentations from 34 different agencies and WAFAC members. Attendees requested technical and financial assistance from agency representatives and Fire Strong event partners. In addition, CCR received 700 requests for address signs to aid in response efforts in Okanogan County.

To learn more: okanogancountyrecovery.com

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #5 (SCFDS)

SCFDS focused on outreach and spurring community fuel reduction initiatives. With leveraged support from community partners, SCFDS completed the following: 60 acres of fuel reduction; five community clean-up events for Firewise USA sites; and a defensible space workshop for Firewise USA leaders. SCFDS hosted the 2019 WAFAC Annual Workshop field trip to highlight their partnerships.

Visit: scfd5.org
MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

DRIVE OUR WORK

We invest in purposeful connections between and with our communities to learn and use methods and processes to enhance community resilience to wildfire across Washington State. Our network is large, but so is our state — by connecting communities, we spread new ideas, bolstered our network and spurred more fire preparedness work across Washington.

Six WAFAC members met in the field to share key strategies for working across boundaries with agencies and how to best engage absentee homeowners. They discussed challenges with keeping insurance and how their organizational structures have led to more fire preparedness efforts in their respective neighborhoods.

Sixty members from across the state spent two days in the field learning about how effective partnerships in two communities (Four Mound Firewise Community and Flower Trail Community Association) have led to more on-the-ground wildfire mitigation. They also participated in team leadership and a ‘Change the Story, Change the World’ skill building sessions in the classroom.

WE INVESTED IN CONNECTIONS AND OUR COMMUNITIES

The scale of our task and the geographically distinct regions of our state demand that smart people with different perspectives come together. Meaningful connections between our members mean a powerful way forward in preparing local communities and our state for wildfire. Our members worked on cross boundary work with agency partners, created partnerships with veteran crews to achieve mitigation, and leveraged funds and in-kind work from non-traditional partners to get on the ground work accomplished in areas where work had not occurred in the past.

3 NEW COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

42 COMMUNITIES ASSISTED

349 HOMES PROTECTED BY MITIGATION

OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

With gratitude and appreciation, the Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by:

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PEER LEARNING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

- Peer to Peer Learning Exchange
  Chelan County, WA
- Four Intro to Fire Adapted Communities & WAFAC Workshops
  Olympia, WA & Wenatchee, WA
- Fire & Climate Innovation Lab, Learning Exchange
  Yakima, WA & Wenatchee, WA
- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Pacific Northwest Exchange, & Wood Utilization
  Nationwide
- Engaging Across Differences
  Seattle, WA
- Restore America’s Forest Field Tour
  Wenatchee, WA
- Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
  Learning Exchange
  Southern Oregon

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT KITTITAS FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES COALITION (KFACC)

The newly formed Coalition has stepped up to the plate and is leading fire adaptation effort in Kittitas County. With 14 organizations and affiliations represented in the Coalition, they are influencing community and partner action. In 2019, KFACC members encouraged municipal government engagement in FAC efforts; coordinated and promoted vegetation removal and disposal in partnerships with Kittitas Fire District #1, Washington DNR, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management; and hosted two community workshops featuring the Era of Megafires presentation.

Visit: kccd.net/fire-adapted-communities

FIREADAPTEDWASHINGTON.ORG