

## FINDING CENTER IN OUR PLACE

Wildfires are an ever-growing threat in the state of Washington, and tackling this issue requires a concerted effort, prompting the need to find new ways to stay resilient and connected. Whether it is changing our own practices or coming together to inform policy, our Network continues to find ways to minimize the impact of wildfire in our state. WAFAC members explore how we can bridge old with new by collaborating and utilizing available resources to create a future in which wildfires are better managed and the people of Washington are more ready. As we roll into 2023 - with fast transitions and thoughtful planning - our Network will continue to give generously. Together we can take steps towards making Washington communities more prepared for wildfire, and ultimately find a sense of center in the midst of chaos.

-Hilary Lundgren, Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Program Director

## WE CONNECT HARD-WORKING COMMUNITIES

### SEEKING A BETTER FIRE FUTURE

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

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

### SAN JUAN ISLANDS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

San Juan County, WA

The San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) conducts a range of ecological forestry activities that begin with providing technical and financial assistance to landowners for forest management. SJICD has partnered with Western Washington University to develop the Islands Conservation Corps (ICC), a unique work-study program in the islands that allows students to obtain certificate- and master-level degrees while providing forest restoration services across public lands. The ICC has grown over the past three years and expanded partnerships, including with regional tribes to help steward public lands and reintegrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge in forest and fire management. To learn more about their work, visit: [www.sanjuanislandscd.org](http://www.sanjuanislandscd.org)

### NUESTRA CASA

Yakima County, WA

Founded in 2003, Nuestra Casa, is a Latin-led organization based in Sunnyside, WA. Through education, empowerment, and mutual support, Nuestra Casa enables immigrant women to create positive changes in themselves, their families, and their communities. Nuestra Casa assists over 1,000 immigrant adults yearly through classes, workshops, and referral services. Since 2019, Nuestra Casa has been expanding their portfolio of work, integrating wildfire preparedness efforts into their education program - and working with limited english speaking populations and renters to reduce potential ignition sources around homes. To learn more, visit: [www.nuestracasawa.org](http://www.nuestracasawa.org)

## 2022 AT A GLANCE

84

ACRES OF FUEL  
REDUCTION

1

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE  
PROTECTION  
PLAN UPDATES

11

WILDFIRE RISK  
HOME ASSESSMENTS

75

PUBLIC EDUCATION  
EVENTS

39

COMMUNITIES  
ASSISTED IN WA



## 2022 ANNUAL WAFAC WORKSHOP REDISCOVERING THE ENERGY OF IN-PERSON LEARNING

After more than two years of meeting in the virtual world, 50 people from 26 organizations gathered in Anacortes, Washington for three days to learn about Tribal Sovereignty, community fire adaptation best practices, and biomass utilization on San Juan Island.

**"It was amazing to connect with so many folks focused on the same issues that I am, and actually go out into the field to view unique ways people are addressing wildfire issues."** Charlie Landsman, [Washington Dept. of Natural Resources](#)

Once again, we saw the energy that comes from in-person connections and commitments to do more, together.

**"The most impactful thing about the workshop was all the help and great advice I was able to receive, at the federal, state, and local levels. The activities were very intriguing - and facilitated communications and connections with everyone. I loved it!"** Kareli Cruz, [Nuestra Casa](#)

## WAFAC STAFF SPOTLIGHT KEEGAN FENGLER



*The Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council welcomed Keegan Fengler to the WAFAC Staff Team!*

At the end of March 2022, I had the honor of accepting a position as WAFAC staff. One of the things that attracted me was the organization's commitment to centering the people they serve and partner with to support communities and their priorities. Being new, I had a lot to learn about the organization, wildfire, and the network. WAFAC members

welcomed me with open arms and have been teaching me about wildfire, resilience, and serving others - and how WAFAC directly correlates to better on-the-ground outcomes, stronger programs, and increased capacity.

With a network of compassionate, collaborative, and forward-thinking individuals, I am excited to bring new learning opportunities to the space, facilitate peer-to-peer mentorship, and support members work.

Our members bring a unique approach to this work and in turn, are the source of what makes WAFAC special. Caretaking the well-loved WAFAC Learning Network has been a joy and an inspiration.

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Indigenous Partnerships

[Climate and the Growth Management Act](#)

Wildfire in the Shrub- Steppe: Barriers and Best Practices for Mitigation

Fire and Co-Management in Partnership with Native American Tribal Nations

Biochar in the San Juan Islands: Returning Burning to Fire Adapted Ecosystems

Engaging and Sustaining Partners and Volunteers

Introduction to Fire Adapted Communities and Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

## NEW! ONLINE RESOURCES

Resource Guide: [Climate and the Growth Management Act](#)

Resource Guide: [Demystifying Insurance](#)

Handout: [Types of Insurance Coverage](#)

Toolkit: [American Sign Language for Community Resilience Facilitators](#)

Toolkit: [How to Use Social Media Effectively for Community Fire Adaptation](#)

Blog Post: [Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Management](#)

Sign up for our blog, newsletter, access recordings, tip sheets, and resource guides, at: [fireadaptedwashington.org](https://fireadaptedwashington.org).

## OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

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



FIRE ADAPTED  
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