

In 2024, communities across Washington State have been busy developing, growing, and broadening their fire adaptation and preparation work. Washington fire adapted communities are focusing on actions that make a measurable difference to help keep people, homes, forests, and livelihoods safer, before, during, and after wildfire. This collective momentum reflects a growing understanding that we must learn to live with wildfire together, turning vulnerability and uncertainty into collective action.

This progress is powered by shared knowledge, strong relationships, and a deep commitment to collaboration. Neighborhood groups, fire districts, landowners, tribes, and community organizations are exchanging resources, trainings, and strategies that enable them to respond more effectively when a fire occurs — and to aid in recovery afterwards. From clearing defensible space and reducing hazardous fuels, to organizing community preparedness workshops and developing evacuation plans, these efforts collectively contribute to a future where communities can coexist safely alongside fire.

Keegan Fengler, WAFAC Program Manager



WE CONNECT HARD-WORKING COMMUNITIES

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH WILDFIRE TOGETHER

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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

EASTSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE King County

Eastside Fire and Rescue (EF&R) proudly serves the communities of Issaquah, North Bend, Sammamish, Mercer Island, and the Snoqualmie Tribe, along with Fire Districts 10, 38, and 45, and Woodinville Fire & Rescue. The Emergency Management Division plays a critical role in strengthening community disaster resiliency by implementing and supporting a wide range of services: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. EF&R operates a home and community wildfire mitigation assessment program, helping residents reduce wildfire risk to their homes and properties. As community awareness of the risks posed by wildfires and wildfire smoke continues to grow, EF&R has stepped up to meet the moment, providing timely, accessible information tailored to the needs and understanding of residents. To learn more, visit: wa-eastsidefirerescue.civicplus.com

WHATCOM + SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Skagit and Whatcom Counties

The Whatcom & Skagit Conservation Districts' shared Wildfire Resilience team focuses on providing outreach and education, resources, and technical assistance to homeowners throughout both counties. In 2024, they conducted 110+ Home Ignition Zone risk assessments, presented at 20+ outreach events, and provided support and guidance for multiple Firewise USA® communities. The team also conducted 4 flame-cap kiln biochar production demonstrations, bringing the innovative practice to fuels reduction projects on individual properties. As the lead in the Skagit County CWPP update process, the team worked with multiple public agencies to identify areas of concern, future project areas, and initiated a post-fire component of the CWPP. To learn more, visit: whatcomcd.org/wildfire and skagitcd.org/wild-fire.

IMPACT

In our effort to help communities live with wildfire, WAFAC is always striving to provide relevant and useful learning opportunities for our members. In 2024, WAFAC hosted new learning series, developed more resources, and worked to translate both our website and additional resources into Spanish in order to enhance their accessibility for Latinx communities.

Webinar Topics:

- Insurance
- Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP)
- Washington Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan 5-Year Review

In-Person Events and Trainings:

- Tools for Engaging Landowners
- Introduction to Fire Adapted Communities
- Post-Fire Recovery Peer Learning Exchange
- CWPP

New and Updated Toolkits:

- [Understanding Insurance](#)
- [CWPP](#)



104

CURRENT WAFAC
MEMBERS

17

TRAINING AND
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

12

NEWSLETTERS

2

BLOG POSTS

49

MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

95

IN-PERSON
EVENTS
ATTENDEES

204

VIRTUAL SESSION
ATTENDEES

WAFAC ANNUAL WORKSHOP

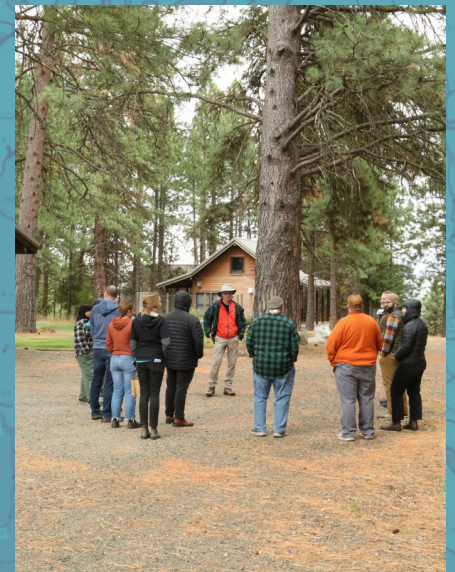
OCTOBER 15-17, 2024 ELLENSBURG, WA

70 local, state, and federal community fire adaptation practitioners gathered for three days to share best practices, learn from peers, and brainstorm ideas for supporting our communities' wildfire resilience efforts.

The workshop kicked off with a field trip to Roslyn, WA where participants got to hear from local practitioners who are working in the community to build coalitions, foster partnerships in planning and forest health, and expand citizen action initiatives.

At the workshop, WAFAC members

- shared their expertise and perspectives to help inform and shape network training and learning opportunities;
- gained valuable insights on how to effectively engage and collaborate with state and federal agencies in community and landscape resilience efforts;
- highlighted the critical role of collaboration among diverse stakeholders in planning efforts;
- dug into initiatives that empower residents to take a more active role in wildfire adaptation and preparedness



WITH GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION, WAFAC IS SUPPORTED BY:



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

