

Every year brings its own set of challenges in fire adapted communities, and 2025 was no exception. From early-season drought conditions that dried out fuels faster than anticipated to the ongoing risk of homes and neighborhoods that straddle the wildland-urban interface, the work of building resilient communities never slows down. This year, practitioners and community members alike pushed forward – conducting defensible space assessments, clearing ladder fuels, updating emergency evacuation plans, and deepening partnerships between neighbors, local fire departments, and land managers. Despite the complexity of the landscape – both physical and social – communities showed up, leaned into the hard conversations, and took meaningful steps toward long-term coexistence with fire. The progress made in 2025 is a testament to the dedication of everyone doing this work, and a reminder that fire adaptation is not a destination but an ongoing commitment to the safety and resilience of the places we call home.



Keegan Fengler, WAFAC Program Manager

WE CONNECT HARD-WORKING COMMUNITIES

WE ARE STRONGER 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.

JUNTOS MAS FUERTES

WASHINGTON FAC WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2025 YAKIMA, WA

In 2025, WAFAC co-hosted the Washington FAC Workshop with the Latino Community Fund of Washington. Our theme was Juntos Mas Fuertes (Stronger Together), and together, we welcomed both WAFAC members as well as a handful of people new to Fire Adapted Communities work.

This year, participants

- re-connected after a year of change
- practiced storytelling skills
- forged new relationships and connections
- discussed ongoing challenges, recent successes, and current work
- learned about new and innovative ways of working in and for community

52 WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANTS

29 ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTED

IMPACT OF WAFAC

In 2025, WAFAC continued its effort to translate our resources and materials into Spanish to make them more accessible for Spanish speaking residents, communities, and organizations engaged in fire adaption and community resilience. Our Bite Size Learning Series brought lunchtime learning sessions to members, covering a wide breadth of topics from Biochar to Community Events. WAFAC also partnered with The Whitener Group to deliver an Indigenous Learning Series, during which participants learned about tribal governance and history in Washington State. We expanded our ever-growing list of resources and Toolkits with several new topic-areas, including: Community Engagement and Events, Reforestation, and Engaging with Tribes.

Virtual Workshop and Webinar Topics:

- Creative Capacity Building
- Community Engagement and Events
- Understanding the Legislative Process
- Insurance
- Biochar
- Tribal Engagement
- Post-Fire Restoration

In-Person Events:

- Indigenous Learning Series
- Tools for Engaging Landowners Training
- Introduction to FAC Workshop
- Harstine Island Site Tour
- 2025 Washington FAC Workshop



NETWORK HIGHLIGHT



In 2025, WAFAC helped to launch the new **Community Wildfire Ambassador (CWA)** approach in Washington alongside the Department of Natural Resources. Modeled after a similar program in Colorado, CWA aims to build community and empower neighborhood volunteers to strengthen wildfire resilience in their place by providing them with training, tools, and support. Using this approach, activities and programs can be tailored to the needs and context of a community while still meeting the overarching purpose of engaging residents in fulfilling their role in living with fire.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In its first year, we piloted CWA in the Methow Valley and generated interest in 3 additional counties.

34 PEOPLE ATTENDED CWA
COORDINATOR
TRAININGS

29 PEOPLE ATTENDED
CWA SUPPORT
CALL SESSIONS

WITH GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION, WAFAC IS SUPPORTED BY:

