

Whitman County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday January 22nd, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm (PST)
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams



Welcome Video -
Myla Kelly, DJ&A
Project Manager



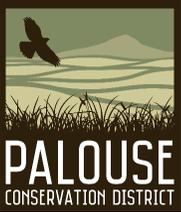
Video available at <https://www.whitmancounty.org/264/Emergency-Management>

Public Meeting Expectations

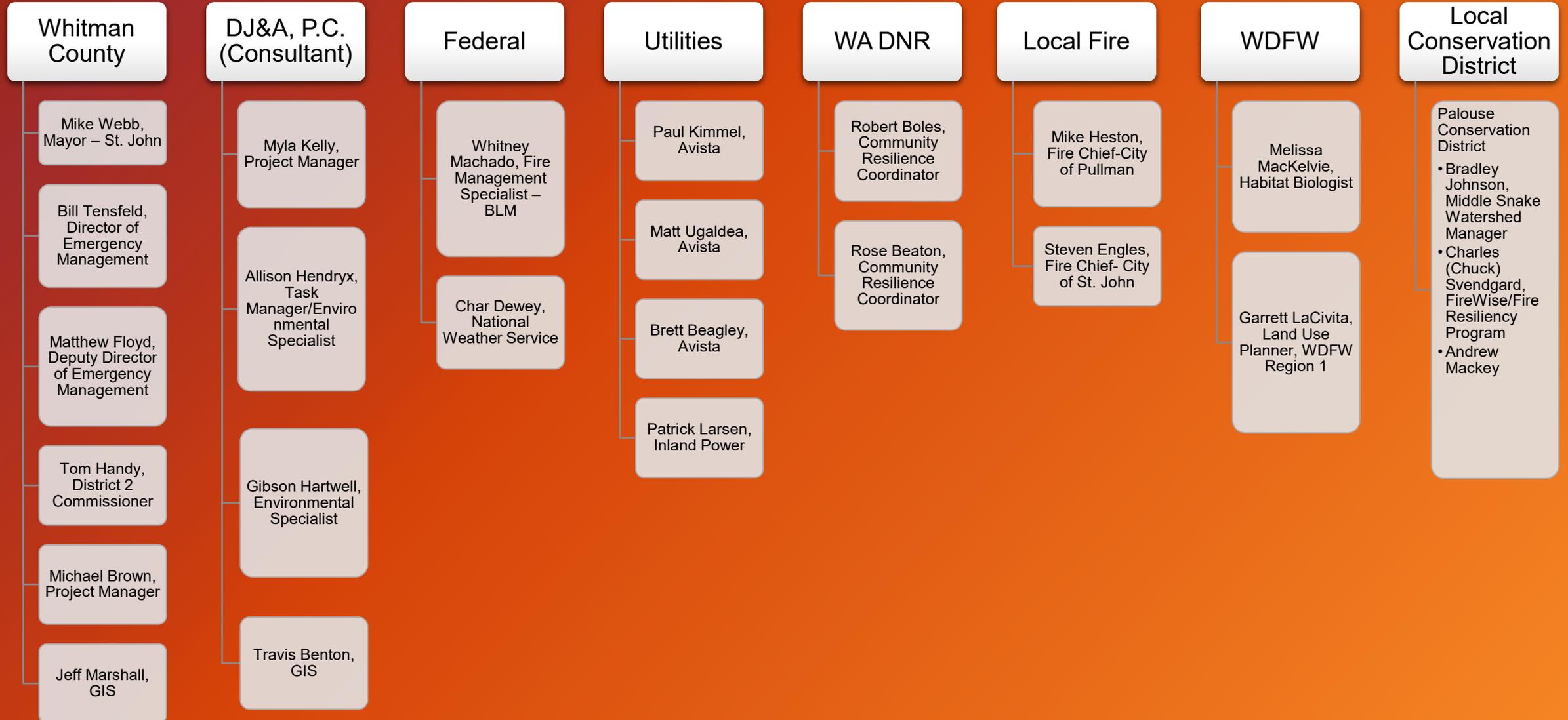
- This meeting will be recorded and posted online at the Whitman County Emergency Management webpage along with meeting notes, a transcript, and the Draft Whitman County CWPP document
- Questions may be submitted using the Q&A tab
- Meeting settings limit the use of video and microphones to those presenting.
- All questions will be reviewed by a DJ&A moderator before posting to the meeting. Please keep your questions or comments appropriate and productive. No inappropriate or aggressive language will be permitted.

The Whitman County CWPP

Core Team



Core Team



Schedule & Progress

- ✓ Establish Core Team
- ✓ **Draft CWPP Outline**
- ✓ Wildland Urban Interface
- ✓ Wildfire Risk
- ✓ *(In-person) Public Meeting*
- ✓ Priority Areas
- ✓ Mitigations and Recommendations
- ✓ Action Plan
- ✓ **Preliminary Draft CWPP**
- ✓ **Draft CWPP**
 - *Virtual Public Meeting*
 - *Public Comment Period (45 days): January 22, 2025 – March 8, 2025*
 - Public Comment Analysis and Revisions to the CWPP
 - **Final Draft CWPP: March 19, 2025**
 - **Signed Final CWPP - Anticipated by May 2025**

How to Submit Public Comments on the Draft CWPP

Please submit your public comments for the Whitman County CWPP by completing the form linked below. You may also access this form by scanning the QR code with the camera on your smart phone or tablet.

<https://forms.office.com/r/BYvk9EQZV3?origin=lprLink>

All public comments are due by March 8, 2025

This information will also be posted to the Whitman County Emergency Management webpage.

Please contact Bill Tensfeld with Whitman County Emergency Management with additional questions or concerns regarding the CWPP.

Scan to Submit Public Comments



Virtual Public Meeting: Outline

- Public Engagement Opportunities
- CWPP Overview
- WUI
- Wildfire Risk
- Implementation
- Review the Draft CWPP Document
- Q&A



Opportunities for Public Engagement

Public Meetings

- In-person (1) - July 16, 2024
- Virtual (1) - January 22, 2025

Public Review & Comment Period

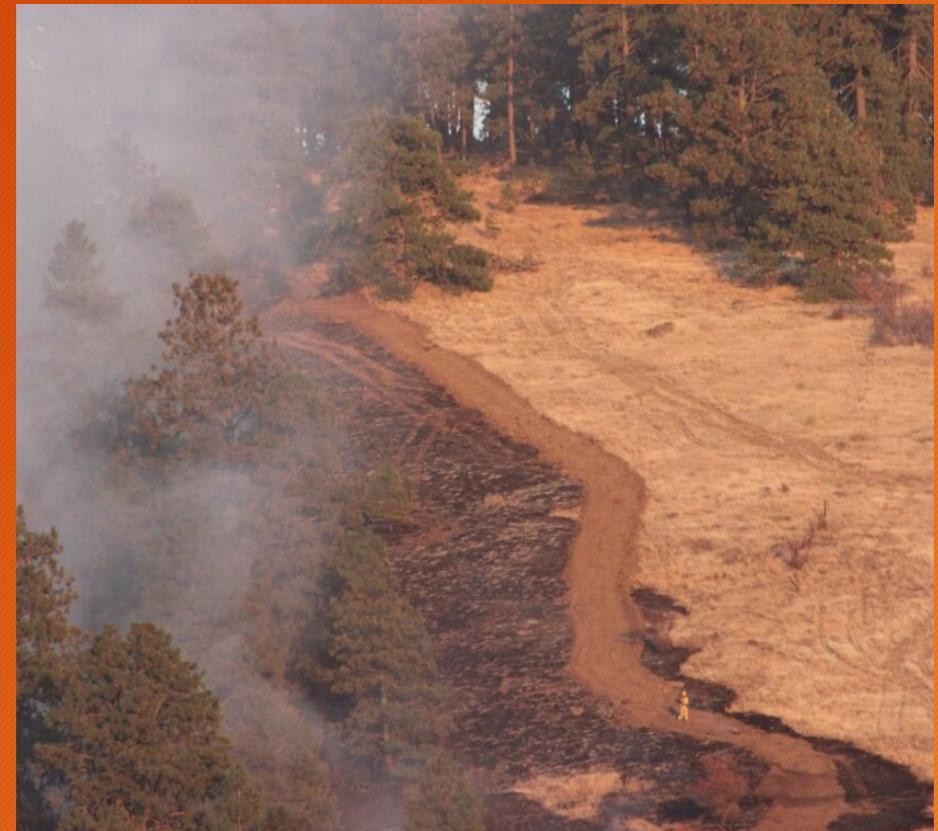
- January 22, 2025 - March 8, 2025 (45 days)

Information: Whitman County Website

- <https://www.whitmancounty.org/264/Emergency-Management>

What is a CWPP?

- The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a community-based plan focused on identifying and addressing the local threat of wildfire.
- The CWPP process determines what is at risk and provides a roadmap of actions for the community to address its wildfire risk.
- CWPPs are planning documents, and are NOT legally binding



CWPP Requirements

Three Requirements:

- Collaboration
 - Local
 - State
 - Federal
- Prioritized Fuels Reduction
- Recommendations for the Treatment of Structural Ignitability

Final CWPP Approval

- Local Government
- Local Fire Department
- State Entity Responsible for Forest Management (WA DNR) + State Forester Approval (WA)

CWPPs – WA DNR Guidance

- County-level CWPPs
- Meet minimum HFRA requirements
- Approval by State Forester
- CWPP updates every 10 years to be eligible for certain funding (e.g., Community Wildfire Defense Grants)
- WA DNR Community Resilience Coordinators provide oversight
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas determined using the Washington WUI map (WA-WUI); any revisions must be labeled as a ‘WUI Planning and Prevention Map’
- Integrate/reference relevant existing local, state, and federal planning documents
- Include a post-fire recovery resources/plan



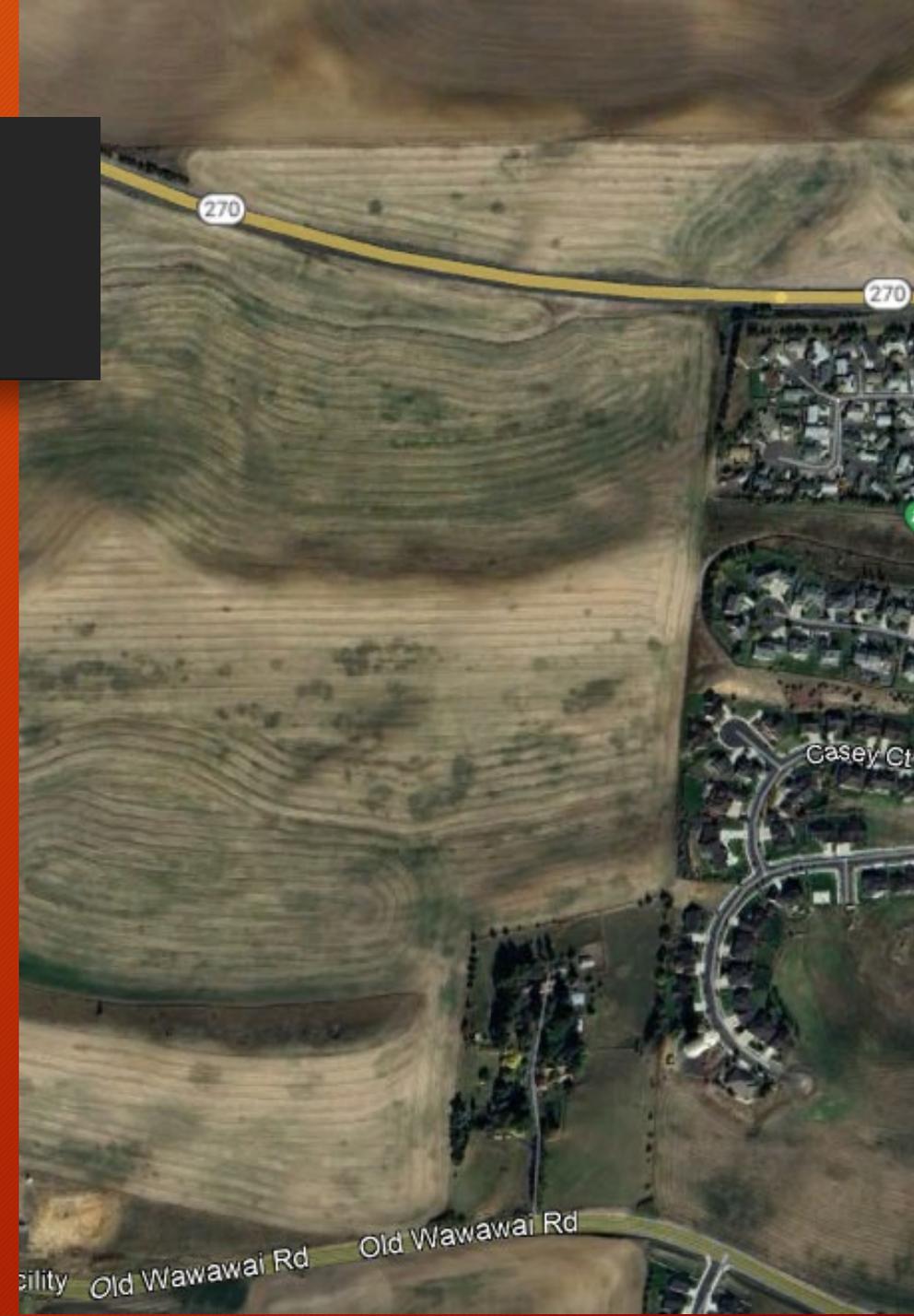
Why is Whitman County Developing a CWPP?

- Planning
 - CWPPs help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire events
 - Increasing wildfire activity throughout Whitman County poses a serious risk to people and property
- Implementation/Funding
 - An updated CWPP facilitates access to numerous funding sources intended to facilitate resilient communities by improving wildfire response and reducing wildfire risk.
- Local Priorities
 - The CWPP empowers local communities to identify priority projects that reflects unique local concerns, assets, and resources.
 - Projects prioritized within the CWPP are more likely to be funded and may receive additional prioritization from federal agencies.



Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

- The WUI represents the areas where wildland fuels meet human development
- The WUI zone often represents an area with increased risk to life, property, and infrastructure as well as unique risks to firefighters and emergency response personnel
- WA DNR is in the process of developing an updated, statewide WUI map (WA State WUI); anticipated to become available in late 2025/early 2026
- Areas that fall within the WA State WUI are subject to the corresponding Washington WUI Code



Wildfire Risk



Photo: Wawawai Fire 2023

The 2023 PNW QWRA

- The 2023 PNW Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment Methods
- Provides objective, science-based wildfire risk analytics to support strategic risk management across Washington and Oregon
- Evaluates risk via a hazard assessment and effects analysis

2023 PNW Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment Methods

Prepared by:
Andy McEvoy¹, Chris Dunn¹, Ian Rickett²



¹ Oregon State University, College of Forestry
² U.S. Forest Service, Region 6

RISK

HAZARD

X

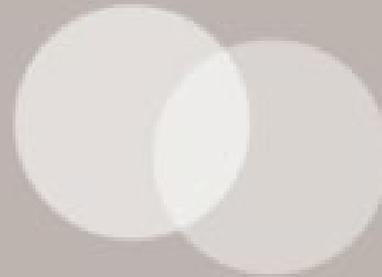
VULNERABILITY



LIKELIHOOD



INTENSITY



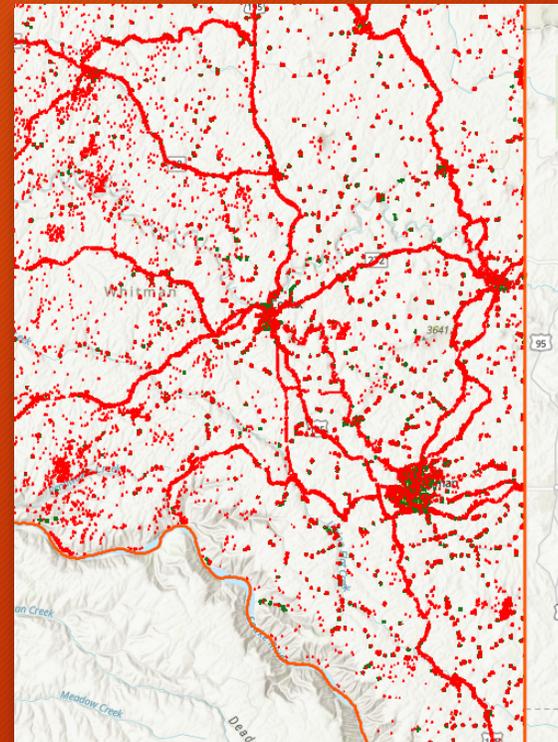
EXPOSURE



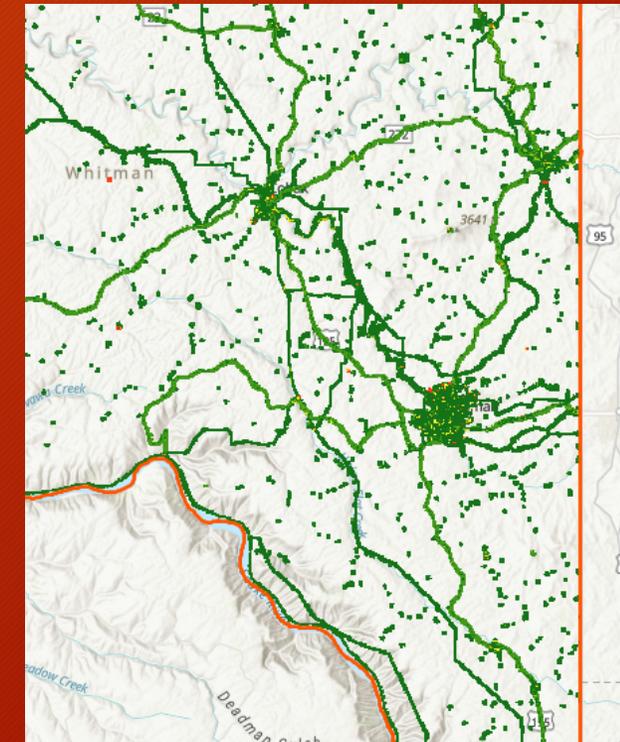
SUSCEPTIBILITY

Wildfire Risk

- Wildfire **hazard** and **vulnerability** combine to create an estimate of wildfire risk for a given point on the landscape
- Wildfire risk metrics allow us to make informed management decisions and to prioritize mitigation efforts and allocate limited resources



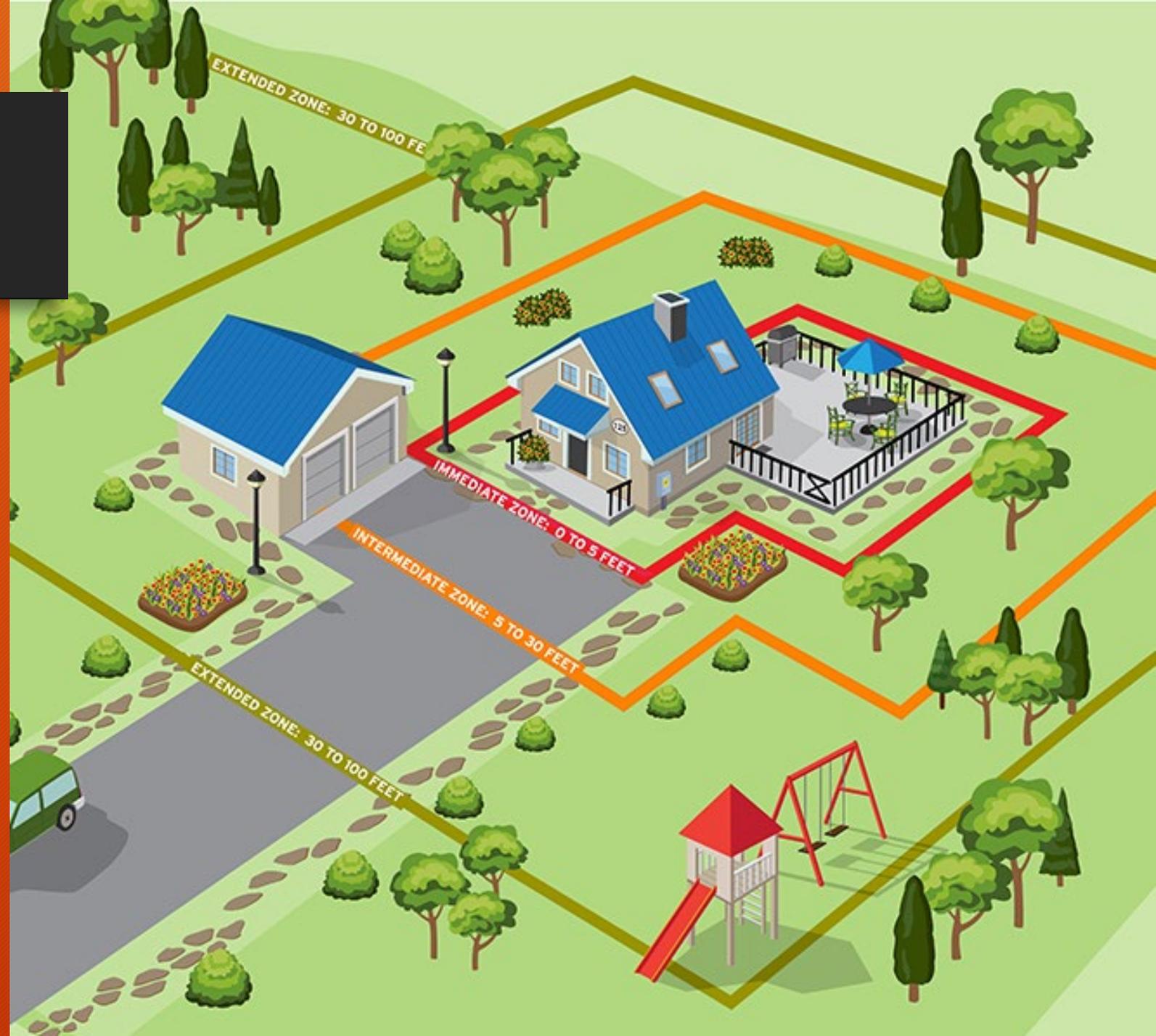
Wildfire Risk (icNVC): High Loss (red)



HVRAs: People & Property, Critical Infrastructure

Vulnerability

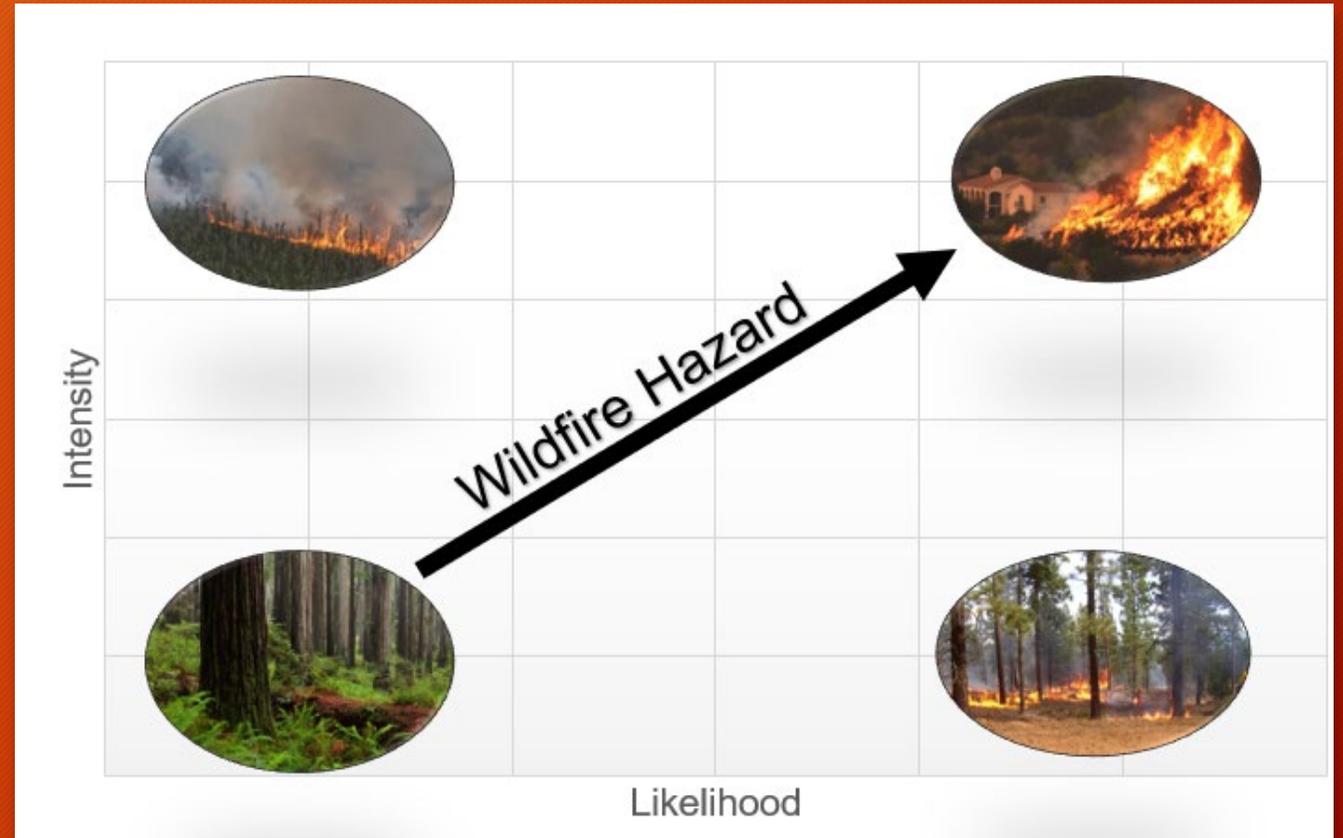
- Exposure: Exposure is the spatial coincidence of wildfire likelihood and intensity with communities. We can reduce exposure to wildfire by modifying homes and surrounding areas, through proactive land use planning, and increasing wildfire preparedness.
- Susceptibility: Susceptibility is the propensity of a home or community to be damaged if a wildfire occurs. We can reduce the susceptibility of homes or other assets and resources through hardening, land use planning, wildfire preparedness, community health strategies, and post-fire recovery planning.



Wildfire Hazard

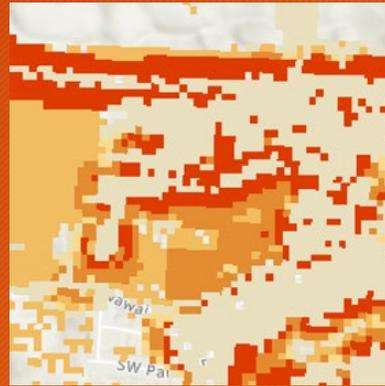
Likelihood: Wildfire likelihood is the annual probability of wildfire burning in a specific location. We can reduce wildfire likelihood by preventing ignitions, through wildfire response, and fuel treatments.

Intensity: Wildfire intensity is a measure of the energy expected from a wildfire. We can reduce wildfire intensity through response, proactive land use planning, fuels treatments, hardened homes, and defensible space



Wildfire Risk and the WUI

- The WUI represents an area where fuels and human development overlap
- Wildfire risk exists across the landscape, regardless of where the WUI has been delineated
- WUI \neq Wildfire Risk



Priority Areas

- A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatments that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure
- Prioritizing areas within the WUI as well as specific projects ensures that grant funding is allocated to areas that need it most
- The Whitman County CWPP uses existing fire district and department boundaries to determine priority areas.



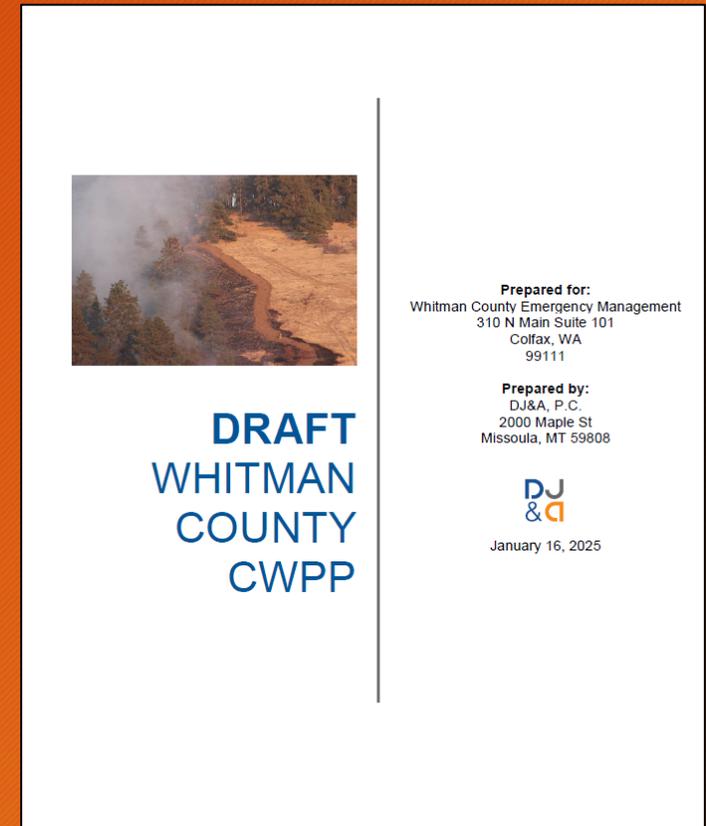
Implementation

- The CWPP includes a detailed Action Plan that will facilitate implementation of identified goals, objectives, and strategies within the CWPP
- The CWPP also includes resources and recommendations for homeowners to reduce structural ignitability and proactively prepare for and recover from wildfire events
- Maps and resources included within the CWPP help the public understand how wildfire risk varies within their community.
- Priority areas are determined by evaluating the relative proportion of wildfire risk per each fire department or fire district boundary.
- Adaptive management allows Whitman County to track the progress of projects identified in the CWPP and adjust priorities or objectives to match current conditions.



The Draft Whitman County CWPP

- The Draft CWPP is posted to the Whitman County Emergency Management webpage: <https://www.whitmancounty.org/264/Emergency-Management>
- Members of the public are encouraged to review the CWPP and provide public comment by March 8, 2025
- Public comments will be reviewed by the core team and incorporated if determined to align with CWPP requirements and will improve the document.



CWPP Sections

- **Section 1: Introduction and Background**
 - This section provides relevant information characterizing Whitman County as it relates to topics addressed within Section 2 and Section 3 of the CWPP. Topics covered within this section relate to the purpose, need, and requirements of a CWPP document, the relationship of the CWPP to other active plans, policies, and regulations applicable to the County, and public engagement and collaboration.
- **Section 2: Wildland Urban Interface & Risk Assessment**
 - Section 2 contains a summary of baseline information for Whitman County, including government, land use, and demographics. The fire environment is also characterized, including descriptions of topography, hydrology, climate, vegetation, fuels, fire history, and risk to municipal watersheds. This section also contains a detailed description of the WUI in Washington state, including current development status and future integration with the Whitman County CWPP. Lastly, this section reviews wildfire risk assessment data across the County and provides context for interpretation. At-risk and underserved communities are also characterized with respect to federal definitions as it relates to the CWPP process.
- **Section 3: Implementation**
 - This section explains how the CWPP integrates with the National Cohesive Strategy, outlines various resources for homeowners to reduce structural ignitability, characterizes the County's current capacity for wildfire response efforts, and provides a detailed action plan outlining applicable goals, objectives, strategies, and projects identified through the CWPP update process. This section also includes priority areas for wildfire risk reduction throughout the County.

Appendices

Appendix A: Implementation - Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Appendix B: Implementation - Action Table

Appendix C: Maps

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

Appendix E: 2023 Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment

Appendix F: Fire District/Department Data Summary Tables



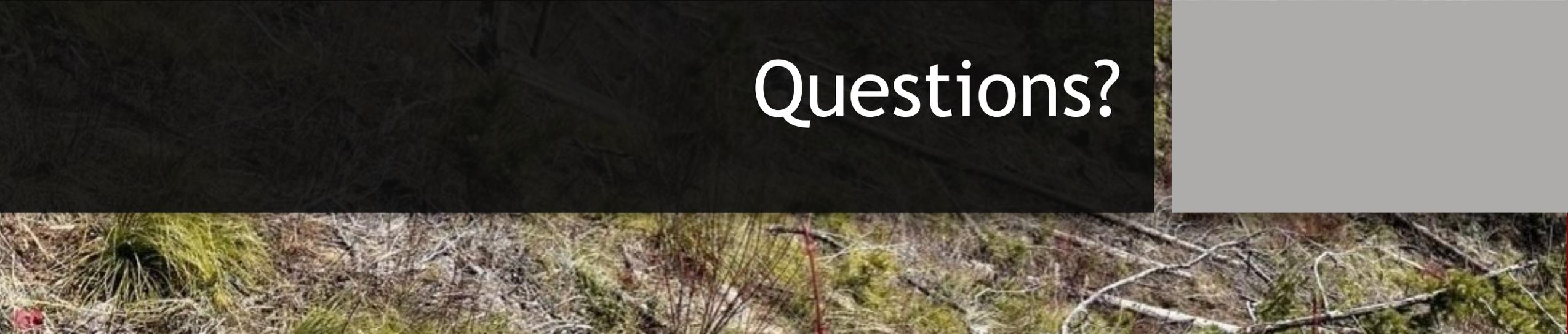
Key Components

- WUI
- County-specific wildfire risk assessment
 - High priority agricultural lands
 - Grass- and crop-dominated fuel types
- Detailed Action Plan
- Maps
- Data Summary Tables





Questions?



How to Submit Public Comments on the Draft CWPP

Please submit your public comments for the Whitman County CWPP by completing the form linked below. You may also access this form by scanning the QR code with the camera on your smart phone or tablet. This information will also be posted to the Whitman County Emergency Management webpage.

<https://forms.office.com/r/BYvk9EQZV3?origin=lprLink>

Please contact Bill Tensfeld with Whitman County Emergency Management with additional questions or concerns regarding the CWPP.

Scan to Submit Public Comments

