

WILSON RANCH FIREWISE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Okanogan Conservation District conducted a Wildfire Risk Assessment in 2020 of the Wilson Ranch community. The community consists of 137 acres containing 47 lots, 23 homes, the Freestone Inn, and 15 rental cabins. This action plan was created and agreed upon by the Wilson Ranch Firewise Committee to address the risks and recommendations presented in the risk assessment report. Below is a list of actions that are reasonably achievable by the Wilson Ranch Firewise Community with the cooperation and partnership of various Okanogan County and WA public agencies. This list of actions may be reviewed annually and amended as the Wilson Ranch Firewise Committee feels necessary. This action plan focuses on the following key areas:

- Education
- Defensible space
- Evacuation

A. EDUCATION

- Organize an annual Firewise committee meeting and discuss how many times per year they should meet
- With the help of the Board of Directors and other community members, create the Wilson Ranch Emergency Response Evacuation Plan
- Conduct Firewise educational events informing residents and landowners of Defensible Space tactics and Home Hardening suggestions
- Educate the community on Wilson Ranch Firewise accomplishments and Action Plan initiatives

B. CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND REDUCE FUELS

- Organize community-wide wildfire hazard reduction work days
- Increase the % of lots/homes that have had a defensible space inspection conducted by Okanogan County
- Develop long-term management plans for POA common areas and defensible spaces

- Continue to work with WA DNR to reduce fuels in the triangle of land that is adjacent to our community

C. PREPARE FOR EVACUATION

- Make sure roads are safer for evacuation. This includes being wide enough for emergency vehicles and having vegetation cleared away from roadsides
- Ensure all homes have visible, reflective house addresses for easy identification
- Designate evacuation routes
- Design and post evacuation route and/or emergency exit signs
- Put out a request for volunteers to aid during evacuation

YEAR 1 (2022)

Education

- Create homeowner contact information database to facilitate communicating directly with homeowners
- Update the new website to include Firewise Community info and educational materials
- Create an annual Firewise report to share with the community
- Organize a guest speaker Zoom meeting with DNR Forest Manager Guy Gifford
- Organize an annual Firewise committee meeting
- Discuss the creation of a Wilson Ranch Emergency Response Evacuation Plan

Defensible Space & Fuel Reduction

- Reduce fuels in common area in Elsie's meadow with Firewise work party event
- Increase the % of lots/homes that have had a defensible space audit
- Look for potential common areas to work on next year
- Discuss with POA Board to include a second chipping event each fall if budget allows

Evacuation

- Be sure that all roadways are safe to travel during an evacuation—check that roads are wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Designate evacuate routes and create an evacuation map to be distributed to guests and residents
- Ensure all homes located in the Wilson Ranch POA have visible, reflective house addresses for easy identification by emergency personnel

YEAR 2 (2023)

Education

- Host a Zoom or in-person meeting in May/June just prior to the fire season. Invite Firewise Committee and other board members to review and edit the Action Plan if needed
- Develop and distribute a handy “quick guide for evacuation” to be distributed to homeowners for posting in their homes to review with family, visitors, and renters
 - Include signing up with Okanogan County Alerts System
 - Distribute to homeowners, cabins, rentals
 - This could be paired with the evacuation map
- Update Wilson Ranch website to provide new information on Firewise action plan initiatives and accomplishments as well as educational materials and links to emergency services
- Presentation of Firewise community accomplishments and focus for 2024 at the annual meeting in December. Provide education materials if needed

Defensible Space & Fuel Reduction

- Wilson Ranch POA will create an updated plan to remove downed fuels, dead trees, and ladder fuels in any remaining common areas
- Annual work-party in May
- Schedule second chipping event in Fall
- Develop plan for future common area work parties and discuss other focus areas

Evacuation

- Be sure that all roadways are safe to travel during an evacuation—check that roads are wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Update evacuation documents and/or signs as needed
- Post new evacuation/emergency exit signs
- Work with board members to create the Emergency Response Plan

YEAR 3 (2024)

Education

- Update and expand the distribution of a handy “quick guide for evacuation”
- Presentation of Firewise Community accomplishments and focus for 2025 at the annual meeting in December. Provide educational materials
- Update Firewise Community website to provide information on action plan initiatives and accomplishments as well as educational materials and links to emergency services

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- Work with board members to create the Emergency Response Plan