MEMORANDUM

TO: Darrel Johnston, Resource Protection Division

FROM: Joe Weeks, Landowner Assistance Program Coordinator, SE Region

DATE: March 12, 2014

SUBJECT: LCG-CWPP Project Selection Process and Region Ranking

The process for development and prioritization of the DNR Southeast Region 2014 National Fire Plan (NFP) Fuels Reduction projects are as follows:

**LCG-CWPP Process**

**Kittitas**

* Interest continues to be quite strong in Upper Kittitas County. This can be attributed to the success of recent projects working in conjunction with the Kittitas County Conservation District to complete defensible space and shaded fuel break projects in communities in the upper county. Community outreach, along with project completion throughout the county, has brought forth the need for additional funding. Collaboration with Kittitas County Conservation District will continue to complete assessments in isolated locations including on the ground prescriptions in the project area.
* Mike Starkovich, FMO, USFS Cle Elum Ranger District

1. Teanaway

1. Adjacency to the USFS North Fork Teanaway project
2. Ranking Factors: High Risk area, and is also part of the Teanaway Community Forest which has fostered a great deal of community dialogue involving the neighborhoods within the Teanaway basin

2. Liberty

1. Adjacency with the USFS Liberty Fuels #1 and Liberty Fuels #2 projects
2. Ranking factors: Interest has grown dramatically for fuels reduction projects with the recent fire occurrence over the past two years and some defensible space and chipping projects have been completed. More work needs to be done which will include looking at potential locations for shaded fuel break along the areas that bounds USFS land.

3. Lake Kachess

1. Adjacency with past USFS projects in the area
2. Ranking factors: Lake Kachess area has a management plan and a shaded Fuel break project adjacent to USFS lands was completed as well as defensible space around residences. There remains a need to clean up and tie together shaded fuel break locations as well as a need for defensible space around residents.

4. Elk Heights

1. Adjacency with USFS projects minimal
2. Ranking factors: In the recent past fires have occurred in the Elk Heights vicinity with some catastrophic results. There is interest in creating defensible space and working on ingress/egress projects.

5. Sky Meadows

1. Adjacency to USFS projects may be minimal
2. Risk Factors: Area is on highly steep slopes on the landscape. The community has an active Firewise committee meeting regularly as well as annual community council meetings. Work has been done establishing a shaded fuel break as well as creating defensible space around residences. More work is needed on improvement ingress/egress right of way widening as well as defensible space. Also looking at widening the width of current shaded fuel breaks

6. Lake Cle Elum/Roslyn/Ronald

1. Adjacent to past USFS projects in the upper Kittitas County area
2. Risk Factors: A number of neighborhoods along with Ronald and Roslyn have been working on fuels mitigation. Roslyn was the pilot shaded fuel break in 2001 with improvements made in the past year. Need to expand the shaded fuel break area as well as put an emphasis on defensible space.

**West Klickitat County**

During the past few months contact has been made with the Trout Lake and Husum communities through community meetings. Discussions have taken place for the extension of current funds and the need for additional funding to carry out more of what has already been completed. All three past and current funds through National Fire Plan grants have been used and are in the process of completing the work. Contractual dollars on current grants have all been obligated and are now creating a waiting list. This list may grow as Underwood Conservation District still has funds to complete additional assessments.

* Gail Bouchard, FMO, USFS Mount Adams Ranger District; Roland Rose, FMO, Gorge National Scenic Area
* After reviewing the information taken from various meetings, the following assessments of the overall proposal came up with the additional information for the various communities for NFP projects listed:

1. Trout Lake
   1. Adjacent to USFS Project: Courtney Road (Scenic Area), Gotcha EIS and Coyote TBS (USFS).
   2. Ranking factors: Trout Lake has been enthusiastic in their efforts to work through long-range fuel reduction around the community by doing neighborhood level defensible space, improvements in ingress/egress to provide safer escape routes. They also continue work on the shaded fuel break project to link it around the entire community where necessary. The community has yet to be targeted for outreach and funding and is located in a very high risk area.
2. BZ Corner/Husum/Snowden (BHS)
   1. No immediate adjacency to USFS Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Momentum is in place after obligating all contractual funds to the community with the 2009 NFP grant. Contacting and signing up clients for defensible space along with proposals for shaded fuel breaks are all part of the plan. Work on ingress/egress on main escape routes and driveways are being considered and will be added to the list if funding is available.
3. White Salmon Fuel Reduction projects
   1. Adjacency to the Gorge Scenic Area’s Courtney Road projects.
   2. Ranking factors: Momentum continues after the past White Salmon NFP grant. Initial assessments have been completed with additional assessments slated for this spring. Contacting and signing up clients for defensible space along with proposals for shaded fuel breaks are part of the plan. Work on ingress/egress on main escape routes and driveways are being considered and will be added to the list if funding is available.

**Chelan County**

* Interest has increased to complete projects within western Chelan County. This can be attributed to the success of recent chipping and fuels reduction projects in the Lake Wenatchee and Plain communities to clean up storm damage from the winter of 2013 and the ease that community members found in completing these projects. Various community meetings throughout the county have identified the need for additional funding to continue this clean-up effort. The communities will work with Cascadia Conservation District to do assessments in isolated locations in the project area.
* Cary Stock, AFMO, USFS Wenatchee River Ranger District.

Various community groups have suggested the following priority:

1. Lake Wenatchee Fuels Reduction
   1. Adjacent to USFS Natapoc Salvage and Restoration Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Excellent community support recognized additional need through continuing requests for assistance. One way in and out communities, excellent projected cost per acre and interagency participation.
2. Plain Fuels Reduction
   1. Adjacency to USFS Natapoc Salvage and Restoration Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Lake Wenatchee/Plain, Chumstick Coalition and Ponderosa Communities are actively engaged in education and revisions of their CWPP’s and have also completed work on shaded fuel break and defensible space projects with previous funding. They already have a waiting list to complete more defensible space and expansion of existing shaded fuel breaks for improvement of existing escape routes.
3. Chumstick Basin Fuels Reduction:
4. Adjacency to USFS Natapoc Salvage and Restoration Projects. The Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (CWSC) is one of the most active groups in the state and has worked with Wenatchee River Ranger District for years to collaborate fuel reduction plans within the Chumstick basin.
5. Ranking factors: They have been successful in completing defensible space in neighborhoods throughout the basin and have a continuing request list for assistance. They have developed action planning for the next 5 years which includes defensible space and shaded fuel breaks around isolated neighborhoods as well as looking to improve ingress/egress in those areas for evacuation purposes.
6. Squilchuck/Forest Ridge
   1. Adjacency to USFS Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Forest Ridge has been selected as Firewise Community of 2014 due to their continuing participation in fuel reduction in the Squilchuck area. There is a continuing need for expansion of the fuel break that will be useful for the Boy Scout camp and Squilchuck State Park. There is a growing list of landowners needing defensible space which we have targeted with other funding in last five years.
7. Chiwawa River Fuels Reduction:
8. Adjacency to USFS Natapoc Salvage and Restoration projects
9. Ranking factors: High risk area with little accomplished at this time. There are several communities in the Chiwawa River drainage and initial contacts with landowner’s has been positive and will be an area of focus for new fuels reduction projects. There is a need for defensible space and shaded fuel breaks around the neighborhoods.
10. Peshastin/Dryden/Cashmere
11. Adjacency to USFS Natapoc Salvage and Restoration projects
12. Ranking factors: High risk area with little accomplished at this time. Landowners in the area have a need for defensible space and shaded fuel breaks around the neighborhoods. Landowner contacts are beginning to pick up.

**Blue Mountains**

* Interest has continued to be very strong in Columbia and Walla Walla counties. This can be attributed to the completion of recent projects working in conjunction with the Blue Mountain RC&D and Walla Walla Fire District 4. Efforts to do defensible space and shaded fuel break projects in communities in and around the forested areas of both counties are ongoing. Meetings within both counties have contributed as well to collaborative discussions to focus the direction of future efforts. Collaborative work with Blue Mountain RC&D and Walla Walla Fire District #4 have focused effort on grading the assessment process in a number of locations in the project area and enhancing work previously completed.
* Amber Mahoney, Fuels Specialist, Walla Walla Ranger District; Bob Albee, AFMO, Pomeroy Ranger District

1. Klicker Mountain
2. Adjacency to USFS projects Maloney Fuel Breaks and Paddock Fuel Breaks.
3. Risk Factors: Part of the Mill Creek watershed is the main water source for the City of Walla Walla. There is a need to continue shaded fuel break work as well as working with landowners on defensible space.
4. Touchet
5. Adjacency to USFS projects Maloney Fuel Breaks and Paddock Fuel Breaks.
6. Risk Factors: Touchet was part of the 2008 Stimuli’s package and shaded fuel break work was completed in a number of areas. There is a need to expand on past project work tying together both shaded fuel breaks and individual landowner accomplishments.
7. Coppei
8. Adjacency with USFS Maloney Fuels projects.
9. Risk Factors: Need to work on shaded fuel breaks, and defensible space in areas that did not burn during the past wildfires, within the footprint of Coppei Fire and Columbia Complex fires.
10. Dixie
11. Adjacency to USFS projects minimal.
12. Risk factors: The majority of the homes in the area are in immediate need for defensible space.
13. Walla Walla
14. Adjacency to Tiger Web USFS projects
15. Risk Factors: Highly populated area of the county, need to protect the lower Mill Creek watershed, need to look at shaded fuel breaks and defensible space outside the boundaries of the City of Wall Walla.

**Southeast Region Ranking**

The following is the ranked list of 2014 National Fire Plan (NFP) Fuels Reduction projects that are being submitted by DNR Southeast Region. These projects were ranked by County LCG-CWPP Groups and DNR Southeast Region staff.

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| **National Fire Plan Applications 2014** | | | |  |  |  |  |
| Southeast Region Ranking | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rank** | **Project Name** | **County** | **Criteria Met** | **WRIA** | **Lead Agency** | **Request Amount** | **Footprint Acres** |
| 1 | Kittitas | Kittitas | Yes | Upper Yakima | WA DNR | $200,000 | 155 |
| 2 | West Klickitat | Klickitat | Yes | Klickitat | WA DNR | $200,000 | 140 |
| 3 | Chelan | Chelan | Yes | Wenatchee | WA DNR | $200,000 | 150 |
| 4 | Blue Mountains | Walla Walla/Columbia | Yes | Walla Walla | WA DNR | $200,000 | 140 |