



X. WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAMS

There are numerous wildfire mitigation programs available to local units of government. The National Database of State and Local Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Programs (<http://www.wildfireprograms.com/>) is an excellent online resource of programs, studies and wildfire mitigation actions used in communities across the country. Below is a brief list of programs that local communities can use to reduce the risk and threat from wildfire in their communities. These programs focus primarily on the educational and regulatory aspects of mitigation, and do not in any way represent an exhaustive inventory. Many other possibilities exist through the use of administrative and incentive-based mitigation programs and tools.

HAZARD MITIGATION

In 2000, the National Fire Plan was established to help communities across the nation become better prepared for wildfire. Through this program, states are able to compete for grants to fund projects that meet the goals of the National Fire Plan. The WDNR Division of Forestry manages these funds through their Hazard Mitigation program. Projects fall under a few general categories: readiness, prevention, fuel breaks, and vegetation management. Communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans are eligible to apply for these funds to conduct projects such as access improvement, fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and education to name a few. Smaller associations within the larger community are also eligible to apply for funds to carry out projects such as chipping days, defensible space creation, and fire-prone property assessments for example.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Human development is increasingly encroaching on to the forested landscape. The same values which attract people to the forest can also pose threats to forest health and safety. As more and more people reside within the wildland environment, the threat of wildfire ignition and the potential for loss increase significantly. Wildfire, like other natural ecological processes, serves a role in the natural system. It only becomes problematic when people and development are exposed to this natural process.

A fundamental principal of community planning is to site future growth and development in areas which avoid natural hazards and to minimize risk to life and property. By establishing clear growth management goals, policies and implementation strategies within the context of wildfire hazard mitigation, communities can reduce the potential dangers from wildfire. Implementation strategies may range from advisory recommendations for construction and site design, to regulatory controls including zoning, land division & other ordinances, building codes, subdivision controls, design standards, road & signage standards and others.

Wisconsin's comprehensive planning legislation (Chapter 66.1001) provides a general framework for the development of a comprehensive plan. Communities which engage in





certain activities identified in the legislation (such as zoning) are required to base decisions on the contents of a plan which meets the Chapter 66 standards. Wildfire mitigation and risk reduction planning efforts can be incorporated into each of the nine required planning elements.

The CWPP can be used by communities as a tool in the development of a comprehensive plan. Hazard risk analysis and assessment information can also be used to assist in allocating future growth.

EDUCATION

Education is on one of the most effective wildfire prevention programs available. Community wildfire education and prevention activities directed at homeowners can help reduce fire risk in the wildland urban interface by encouraging and promoting Firewise landscaping, defensible space and outdoor fire safety. Education programs for children can also be very effective as these programs help prepare future homeowners for living with wildfire. Numerous educational materials and programs are available on the Internet and through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, the State of Wisconsin offers educational grant opportunities under the Forest Fire Protection Grant Program. This grant can be used to develop forest fire prevention materials. The materials could include information on planning and managing forests to ensure considerations are made for fire prevention in the community.

WILDFIRE EDUCATION RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Education Programs for Children

Discovery Channel: Fire Ecology Curriculum K-12 grades
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/forestfires/>

Learning, Experiences & Activities Program (LEAF)
<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/fire/index.htm>

Minnesota DNR Fire Prevention Education Curriculum -
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/wildfire/curriculum.html>

FEMA for Kids <http://www.fema.gov/kids/wldfire.htm>

Home Fire Escape Plan
<http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/fireprevention/education/homefirescapeplansafety.pdf>

Good Fire Bad Fire
<http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/fireprevention/education/goodfiresbadfires.pdf>

Fire Pals <http://www.firepals.org/>





Smokey the Bear Program <http://www.smokeybear.com>

Wildfire Resources for Adults

NOAA Fire Weather Information Center <http://www.noaa.gov/fireweather/>

NWCG Publications <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm>

NPS & Fire Management <http://www.nps.gov/fire/>

National Interagency Fire Council <http://www.nifc.gov/>

Fire Information Toolbox <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fio/general.htm>

WDNR Forest Fire Program <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fire/>

Education Resources for Homeowners

Firewise

<http://www.firewise.org>

National Interagency Fire Center

<http://www.nifc.gov/preved/index.html>

<http://www.nifc.gov/preved/protecthome.html>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forest Fire Program

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fire>

American Red Cross Fire Wildfire Information

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/readywildfire.html>

FEMA Publications

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/wildfire.pdf>

Firewise Around Your Home

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/publications/FirewiseAroundYourHome.pdf

Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06302.html>

Fire-resistant Landscaping

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06303.html>

REGULATORY PROGRAMS



Regulatory programs can be effective tools for reducing the threat of wildfire and the resulting damage to property as a result of fire. These programs utilize jurisdictional legal authority to develop and implement regulations to protect health, welfare and safety.

SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Subdivision regulations provide the procedures and standards for the division of land into smaller parcels while giving local government the authority to regulate the design and improvement of subdivisions, require dedications of public improvements, require payment of impact fees, and require compliance with the objectives and policies of a Comprehensive Plan. These regulations can also impose restrictions development aspects such as building design, emergency vehicle and water access, defensible space and road design. The Virginia Department of Forestry has developed a sample subdivision ordinance for communities at risk from the threat of wildfire (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/subdivision-guidelines.shtml>). The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) has also published a handbook for local officials on designing zoning and building standards. This information is available on the Internet at http://www.glffc.com/public/prevention/prevention_committee.html.

COVENANTS OR DEED RESTRICTIONS THAT REQUIRE WILDFIRE HAZARD MITIGATION

Deed restrictions and restrictive covenants are written agreements that restrict or limit property use or activities. These restrictions appear in the deed records, and are private agreements or contracts between a property buyer and a property seller. Restrictions may include requirements for residents to maintain appropriate fuels reductions measures on their property.

TRADITIONAL ZONING

Traditional zoning is the most widely applied tool for regulating land development in Wisconsin. The local zoning ordinance can include requirements for setbacks, landscaping, and site access, to name a few, that can assist in reducing fire hazard.

WILDFIRE HAZARD OVERLAY DISTRICTS

Overlay, or “floating districts” are mapped areas with additional requirements beyond those of the underlying zoning district. Ordinance text impose specific requirements for building setbacks, design or other wildfire hazard mitigation standards.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES (CPZ)





Requirements for community protection or fuel management zones around high-risk communities. This tool can minimize the wildfire threat by providing appropriate hazardous fuels reduction measures within a zone surrounding WUI communities.

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance standards are zoning controls that regulate the effects or impacts of a proposed development or activity on the community, rather than separating uses into various zones. Standards may require the maintenance of defensible space and other measures that reduce or mitigate wildfire hazards before development approval.

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

Development Agreements are contractual agreements voluntarily entered into by a municipality and a developer to vest development rights for a specific development project. Through the Development Agreement, the municipality may require the reservation or dedication of land for public purposes and may include conditions and restrictions for subsequent discretionary actions. For example, a municipality may require dedication of emergency access easements, dedication of land for fire fighting facilities, on-going maintenance of those facilities, and subsequent review of fire safety plans before later phases of development can begin.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The National Firewise Communities Program is a national multi-agency program which promotes partnerships between community leaders, homeowners, planners, developers and others to promote wildfire preparedness- before a fire starts. The Firewise approach emphasizes local community responsibility for designing and maintaining safe communities through land use planning, mitigation activities, collective decision-making and effective response.

Firewise Communities/USA is a project of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team and is the latest component of the Firewise program. According to the NWCG, the Firewise communities' concept "provides citizens with the knowledge necessary to maintain an acceptable level of fire readiness, while ensuring firefighters that they can use equipment more efficiently during a wildland fire emergency."

Becoming a Firewise Community involves a 7 step process.

Step 1: Contact Firewise

Step 2: Site visit with local Firewise Communities USA representatives

Step 3: Community representatives create a multi-discipline Firewise board/committee

Step 4: Assessment & evaluation

Step 5: Create plan – Create agreed-upon, area-specific solutions to its WUI fire issues

Step 6: Implement solutions - Local solutions are implemented following a schedule designed by the local Firewise board and WUI specialist.

Step 7: Apply for recognition

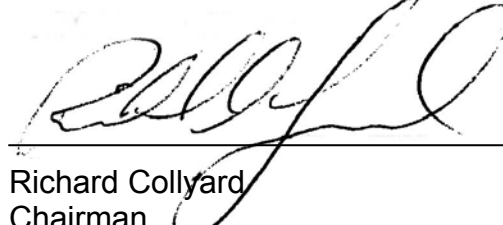


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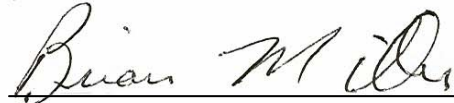
NOTICE OF SUPPORT AND APPROVAL OF THE BARNES-DRUMMOND COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Through involvement, participation and consultation in the development of the Barnes-Drummond Community Wildfire Protection Plan, representatives of the following agencies hereby agree to the final plan content.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

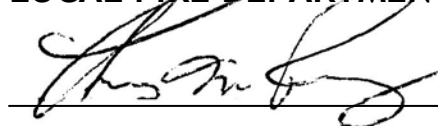


12/20/05
Date
Richard Collyard
Chairman
Town of Barnes

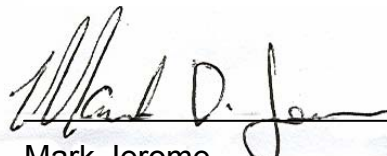


12-14-05
Date
Brian Miller
Chairman
Town of Drummond

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

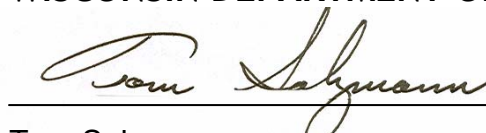


12-20-05
Date
Tom Renz
Fire Chief
Town of Barnes Fire Department



12/14/05
Date
Mark Jerome
Fire Chief
Drummond Fire Department

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES




12/14/05
Date
Tom Salzmann
Lake Superior Area Forester



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

US FOREST SERVICE, CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST

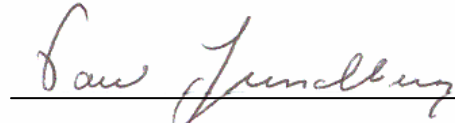


12/14/05

Chris Worth
District Ranger
Washburn Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Date

BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST



12/13/05

Paul Lundberg
Bayfield County Forest Administrator

Date