



Greater Stevenson Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Prepared by: Gail A. Fullerton, Skamania County Wildfire Prevention Coordinator and
Todd Murray, Washington State University Skamania County Extension Director
PO Box 790, Stevenson, WA 98648



**Greater Stevenson
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Signatures of Support**

Rob Farris

Stevenson Fire Department, Fire Captain

Rob Farris 4/18/09

Wayne Martin

Skamania County Fire District #2, Fire Chief

Wayne Martin

John Carlson

Skamania County Department of Emergency Management, Coordinator

John Carlson 4/27/09

Marlon Morat

Skamania County Fire Marshall & Building Inspector

Marlon Morat 4-27-09

Jim Richardson

Skamania County Board of Commissioners, Chairman

Jim Richardson 5/5/09

Russ Hovey

Washington Department of Natural Resources, Pacific Cascade Region

Russ J. Hovey 5/9/09

Chuck Turley

Deputy Supervisor for Regulatory Programs and State Forester

Chuck Turley

Greater Stevenson Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

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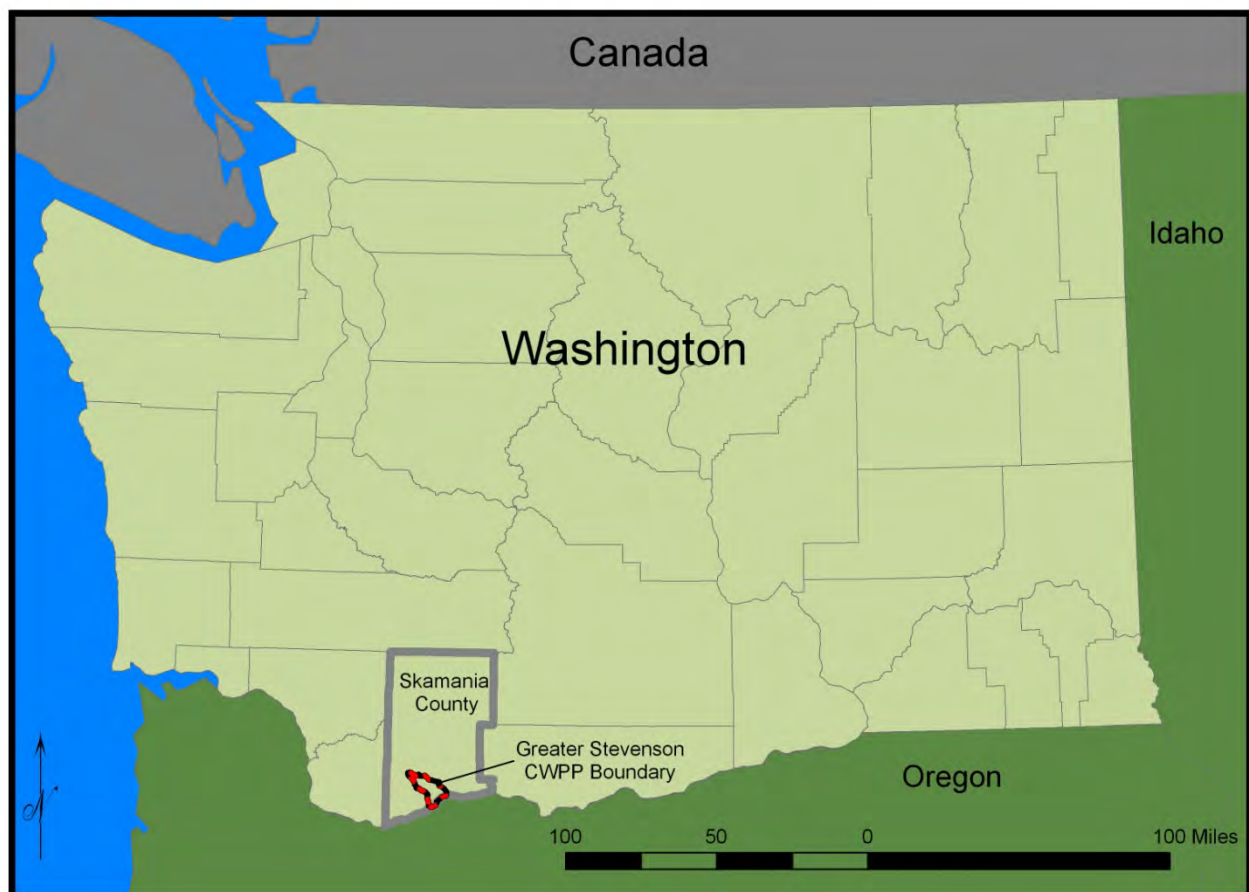


Figure 1. (Appendix H1 Planning Area Location)

Acknowledgements:

This plan would not have been completed without the support of the Skamania County Commissioners, who allocated the Title III School and Rural Community funds used to complete it. The Skamania County FD #2 and Stevenson volunteer fire fighters, and their officers provided key insights and leadership during the CWPP process. Ole Helgerson (WSU Extension, retired) has been the prime mover of this "Firewise" project since its inception in 2002; Sara Zielin (Wildfire Prevention Coordinator 2007- 2008) created the planning/meeting process used for this CWPP and wrote three Skamania County CWPPs (Greater Wind River, Swift and West End). Greg Page and Heather Stiles of the USDA Forest Service, and Russ Hovey of Washington Department of Natural Resources provided support and expertise essential to this CWPP. Frances Heller and Don Chambers collected GPS and edited GIS used to complete this plan.

INTRODUCTION:

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) allows a community in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to take action to reduce its exposure to wildfire. Skamania County and Washington State University Skamania County Extension facilitate CWPPs through a Title III grant from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (PUBLIC LAW 106–393). This plan will serve as a standalone document and as a chapter to Skamania County, WA Emergency Management Plan, and provide a framework to emergency responders, property owners, and interested parties within the planning area to increase the communities' capacity to be better prepared for a wildfire. The plan identifies communities at risk (CAR) and values that would be vulnerable during a wildfire.

For the purpose of this project, the entire planning area is considered to be WUI.

Residents of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area are concerned about the effects of wildfire on their community. Although early fire suppression efforts in the CWPP area have been successful in recent years, several large fires have occurred nearby in recent years and numerous stand replacing fires have occurred in the last century in the CWPP area. Residents, government officials, and fire department personnel understand the potential for catastrophic wildfire in the area, and joined together to proactively plan and implement actions to reduce the impact of wildfire on the community.

Mission

The Greater Stevenson CWPP mission is "Protection of Life, Property, (both private and public), and Natural Resources from fire, through education, planning, and action."

Through this CWPP, residents of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area intend to protect their community from the effects of wildfire through outreach, education, strategic planning, and action. They wish to face each fire season confident that they have done everything possible to prepare for and mitigate the effects of a potential forest fire in their area.

Goal

The primary goal of the Greater Stevenson CWPP is to protect life, property, essential infrastructure, and resources through the implementation of fire prevention projects that work to increase public awareness, provide escape routes, provide shelter "in place", improve forest health, sustain local wildlife, and preserve the natural beauty of the area.

To achieve this goal, the Greater Stevenson Steering Committee developed specific projects which support the following three objectives:

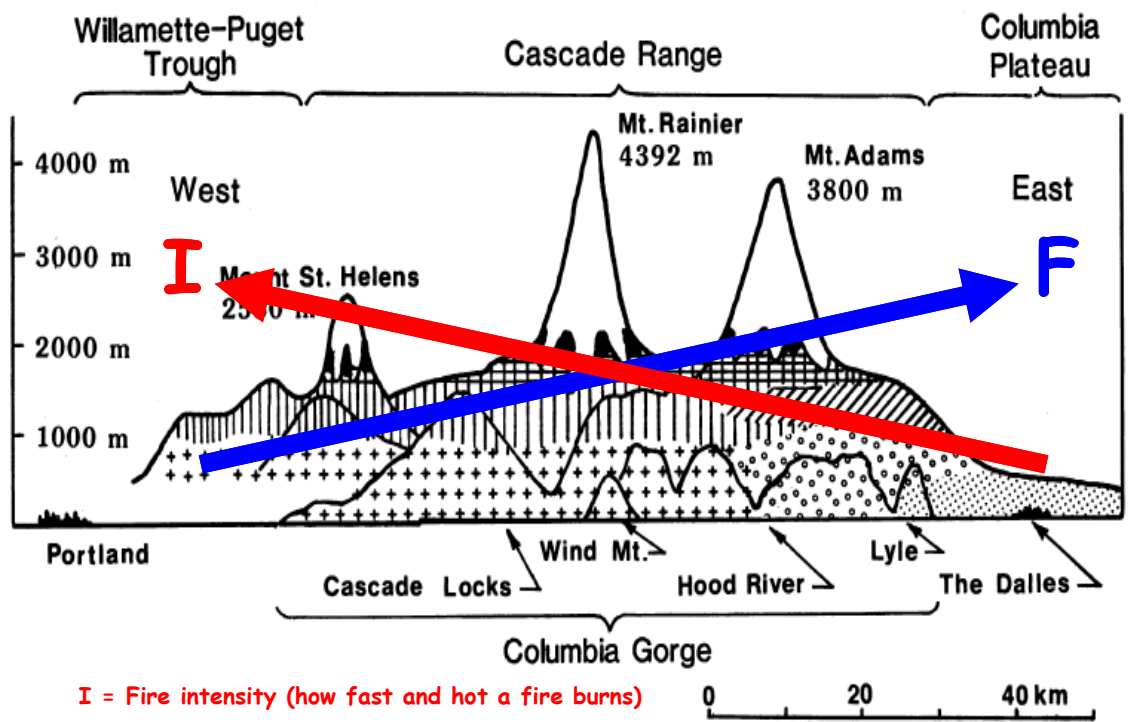
1. Improve the chance of survival for people, animals, homes, and the environment during wildfires
2. Promote wildfire awareness and education for citizens located in 'risk areas'
3. Engage in community-developed fuels treatment projects that reduce wildfire vulnerability of communities at risk.

In an effort to minimize waste, all options for the utilization of biomass produced from fuels reduction projects will be evaluated.

Community Awareness

Residents of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area are very aware of the need to develop a comprehensive wildfire prevention and protection plan. The Greater Stevenson CWPP area is located at the interface of the drier eastern Washington forests and the wetter western forests. The drier forests experience frequent low intensity fire, while the wetter forests experience infrequent but catastrophic fires. (Figure 2) the potential for a fire from the east to spread into the west and become catastrophic is enormous. Years of fire suppression have led to large accumulations of woody fuels. SR 14 and railroad tracks run along the southern boundary of the planning area and are a source of frequent fire ignition. Steep slopes parallel the tracks and SR 14 to the north. The Columbia Gorge forms a wind tunnel providing high velocity wind to drive the fire. All the ingredients to create catastrophic fire are present here.

Concerned residents began organizing in July of 2008. Their energy, input, and guidance have played an essential role in the creation of this CWPP. In addition to regular planning meetings, they have created a Steering Committee and developed an action plan. The Greater Stevenson CWPP action plan includes education of planning area residents on the importance of defensible space and a conviction to see defensible space created, establishing evacuation routes and assembly points, and placing signage providing information on fire danger. The Greater Stevenson CWPP communities are committed to taking action on this plan.



I = Fire intensity (how fast and hot a fire burns)

F = Fire frequency (how often fire occurs)



Forests of Douglas-fir with western hemlock and western red-cedar



Forests of ponderosa pine and Oregon oak



Bunchgrass steppe of bluebunch wheatgrass



Forests of Silver fir, noble fir, western white pine, western hemlock and Alaska yellow cedar



Forests of grand fir, western white pine, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas-fir



Sub-alpine forest of mountain hemlock, sub-alpine fir



Alpine communities



Snowfield and glaciers

Figure 2. Vegetation profile and generalized historic fire frequency and fire intensity in the Columbia River Gorge (adapted from Troll (1955) in Topik et al. (1986) and James K. Agee, University of Washington).

Values

Greater Stevenson CWPP area residents value life, infrastructure homes, schools, business, local economy, scenic beauty, natural resources, habitat, and air quality. They want to improve the safety of their community and play an active role in land management decisions affecting both public and private lands.

BACKGROUND

Wildfire has always been a part of the forest ecosystems of the western United States. What has changed is the risk to public safety, private property and the quality of life; risks have compounded due to more homes in and around forests and to the deterioration of forest health. In the state of Washington, there is a sense that the risks will only increase unless there are fundamental changes, changes that must involve many people. (A Wildland Fire Protection Program for Washington)

There is no such thing as a forest free of fire. Over the past decade, Americans have come to realize the paradox inherent in our fire suppression efforts. The more intensely western forests have been protected from fire—as well as from insects and disease—the worse many of these problems have become. Western U.S. fire statistics show an alarming trend in wildfire severity and area burned, primarily attributable to fuel buildups in western forests. We have been sitting on a time bomb with little idea of how long the fuse is. (Agee 2002)

To compound the problem more people are moving into the forests and building homes. Nine percent of the land area of the United States and 31 percent of U.S. homes are in the WUI, and growth rates within the WUI are triple the rates elsewhere. (A Wildland Fire Protection Program for Washington) Increase in the number of humans and homes in and around forests has increased the risk of ignition along with the need for suppression in the WUI. The WUI is commonly described as the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. This WUI zone poses tremendous risks to life, property, and infrastructure in associated communities and is one of the most dangerous and complicated situations firefighters face. (Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan)

Legislation (NFP, HFI & HFRA)

Nationally, the 2000 wildfire season was the worst wildland fire year since 1910. A total of 122,827 wildfires and over 8.4 million acres burned illustrating how dangerous the situation was. (Jensen 2008) On August 8, 2000, President Clinton asked Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman to prepare a report recommending how best to respond to the year's severe fires, reduce the impacts of these wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future (A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000). This report became the basis for the National Fire Plan (NFP). The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability. In 2001 Congress approved funds for federal and state agencies and local communities to better plan and prepare for future wildfire seasons.

During the wildfire season of 2002, over 88,458 fires burned roughly 7 million acres and caused the deaths of 21 firefighters. President Bush proposed the Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) in August 2002, and directed federal agencies to develop several administrative and legislative tools to restore these ecosystems to healthy, natural conditions and assist in executing core components of the National Fire Plan. HFI led to the enactment of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in January, 2003. HFRA's intent is to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands, and Bureau of Land Management lands, aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds, and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes. The first purpose mentioned in HFRA is "to reduce wildfire risk to communities, municipal water supplies, and at-risk federal land through a collaborative process of planning, prioritizing, and implementing hazardous fuel reduction projects". (HFRA 2003, Sec. 601) Priority for funding is given to at risk communities that have developed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (HFRA 2003, SEC. 103). The Healthy Forests Restoration Act:

- Strengthens public participation in developing high priority forest health projects;
- Encourages collaboration between Federal agencies and local communities when community wildland fire protection plans are prepared;
- Allows communities to define their WUI rather than using the default definition of ½ to 1 mile from the community;
- Directs the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and United States Forest Service (USFS) to give special consideration to project areas and methods of treatment defined in a community wildfire protection plan;
- Requires using at least 50% of the dollars allocated to HFRA projects to protect Communities At Risk (CAR) of wildland fire if identified in CWPPs;
- Encourages biomass energy production through grants and assistance to local communities to create market incentives for removal of otherwise valueless forest material;

- Reduces the complexity of environmental analysis allowing federal land agencies to use the best science available to actively manage land under their protection;
- Encourages courts that consider a request for an injunction on an HFRA-authorized project to balance environmental effects of undertaking the project against the effects of failing to do so;
- Requires performance to be monitored when agencies conduct hazardous-fuel reduction projects and encourages multiparty monitoring that includes communities and other interested parties;
- Provides for administrative review of proposed HFRA projects on National Forest System lands before decisions are issued;
- Contains requirements governing the maintenance and restoration of old-growth forest stands when the USFS and BLM conduct HFRA projects in such stands;
- Requires HFRA projects in the USFS and BLM to maximize retention of larger trees in areas other than old-growth stands, consistent with the objective of restoring fire-resilient stands and protecting at-risk communities and federal lands.

The HFRA is linked to the Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, PL 106-393, through funding provisions found in two separate Titles of PL 106-393. Title III provides counties with funds for expenditure on projects that fall within certain categories. One of these categories is county planning efforts to increase the protection of people and property from wildfire.

CWPP REQUIREMENTS

The HFRA requires 3 components in a CWPP (see Planning, Steps 1, 5, and 6 for specific compliance of this plan)

- 1) Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- 2) Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- 3) Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location

The Greater Stevenson CWPP area is located in south central Skamania County, in the southwestern part of the state of Washington. (Figure 1, Appendix H1) The CWPP planning area includes the city of Stevenson, the county seat. The Greater Stevenson CWPP area is served by Skamania County FD #2 and Stevenson Fire Department. (Figure 3, Appendix H2 and, Planning Process, Step 2)

Skamania County is about forty miles in length from west to east, and extends northward from the Columbia River into the Cascade Mountains and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest for fifty miles. Skamania County has an area of 1,010,080 acres, or 1,672 square miles. The Columbia River flows nearly at sea level through the Cascade Mountains on its way to the Pacific Ocean. This area is nationally recognized for its unique scenic beauty and serves as a major water, highway, and railroad transportation corridor.

Climate

Skamania County's climate is temperate and strongly influenced by topography. It is characterized by cool, dry summers, and mild, moist winters. Along the Columbia River, annual rainfall varies from 50 to 60 inches in the southwestern part of the county to more than 75 inches near the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range. East of this crest, rainfall decreases rapidly to about 35 inches in the southeast corner of the county. Precipitation is higher and temperatures lower with increasing elevation away from the Columbia River. The mountainous valleys in the interior of the county receive annual rainfall of greater than 90 inches.

The Columbia River Gorge functions as a low elevation pass through the Cascade Range. Strong winds are a dominant feature. During the winter, low-pressure systems move through the gorge on westerly winds, bringing heavy rains as a consequence of streamline convergence. Strong high-pressure systems east of the Cascade Range can bring gale-force easterly winds through the gorge, resulting in extremely hot dry weather during the summer and fall and cold continental air during the winter. Summer high temperatures from June through October are generally in the 80's °F. Only 20 percent of annual precipitation occurs during the summer months. August and September are typically extremely dry. Relative humidity is typically high in the winter and spring, but can reach single digits in the summer and fall.

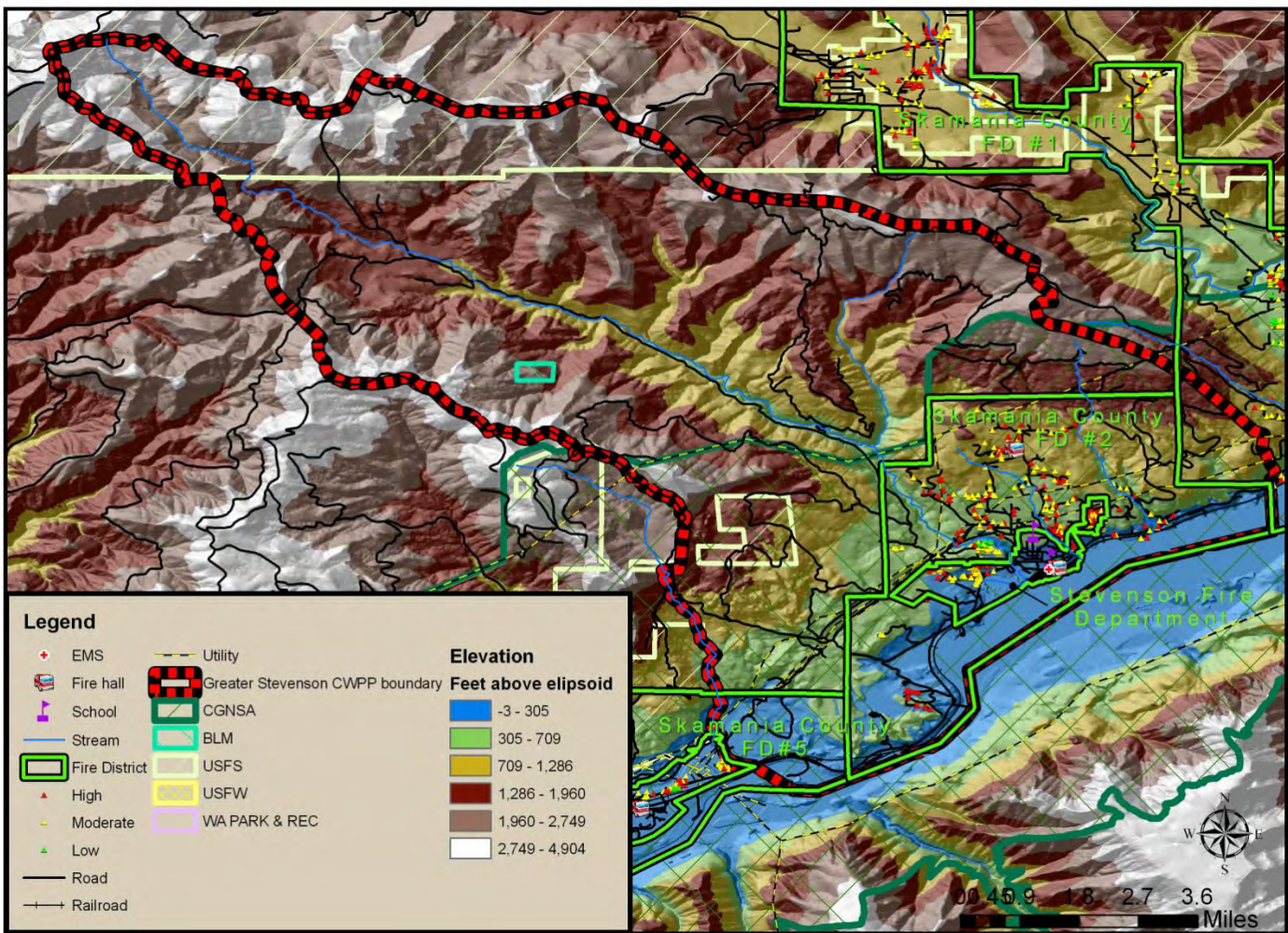


Figure 3. (Appendix – H2) Greater Stevenson CWPP Base map. (Created by Gail A. Fullerton)

Topography and Vegetation

Skamania County has diverse topography, ranging from; gently sloping lands to vertical cliffs along the Columbia River and from level valleys to mountainous uplands with steep cliffs and ravines farther north. Most of the county is heavily forested, with over 90 percent of the 1.1 million acres in public and private forest land. Vegetation cover is primarily coniferous forest but includes some deciduous forest, shrub land, and, grassland. Forests range from mesic: western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) - western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* subsp. *menziesii*), in the west to more xeric: Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*) - grand fir (*Abies grandis*) and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) - ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) in the east (Figure 2). Southwestern Skamania County has some upland farmland, and southeastern Skamania County has some orchard lands. The Cascade Mountains traverse Skamania County from north to south.

Elevation in the Greater Stevenson planning area ranges from about 50 feet to almost 5000 feet above sea level.

(Appendix H4) The main vegetation type in the Greater Stevenson CWPP area is(Douglas Fir – Western Hemlock forests Coastal true fir – hemlock forests are present above 2000 feet and Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) (North Pacific broadleaf landslide forest and shrub lands) are present at low elevations on the north shore of the Columbia River and along Rock Creek. There is also a small amount of grand fir, grass, shrub, black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) and several species of willow (*Salix spp.*).

Fire History

Most of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area is Group V fire regime. This means that the time between fires is generally greater than 200 years with any burn severity. Some CWPP areas at higher elevation are Group 1 fire regime - 35 to 200 years between fires with low and mixed severity, or Group 2 fire regime - 35 to 200 years between fires with stand replacing fire. (Figure 4) The CWPP area has been the site of many large fires in the last century. (Figure 5. - Appendix H3)

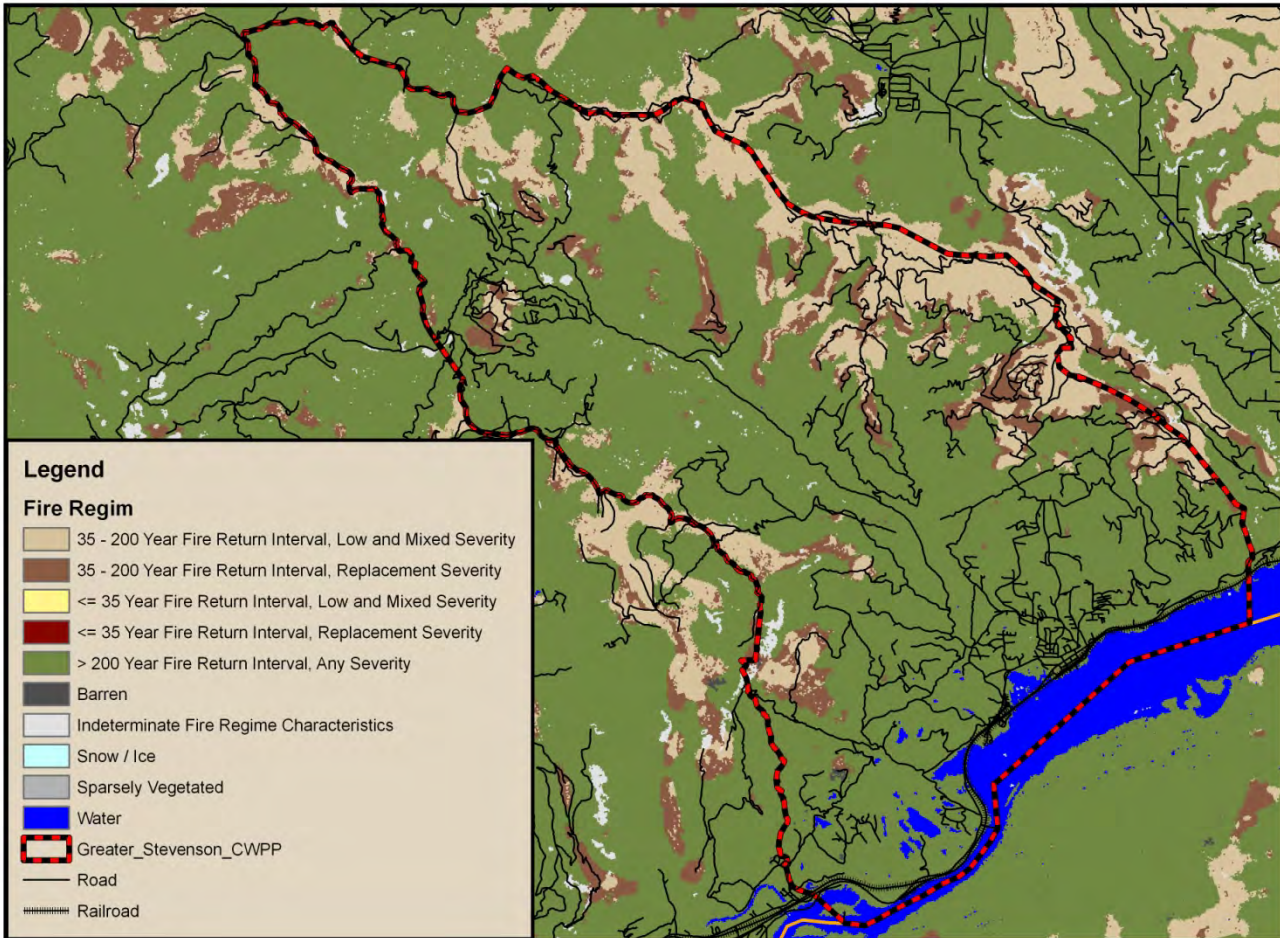


Figure 4. Fire Regime of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area. (Map by Gail A. Fullerton)

The Yacolt Fire stands out as being the greatest fire to move through the area. The fire started near Stabler, WA on Sept. 10, 1902. Driven by strong east winds, it killed at least 38 people and destroyed over 12 billion board feet of lumber on 238,900 acres. It stopped near the town of Yacolt in Clark County when the wind died. (Figure 6)

Numerous small fire starts have been recorded between 1970 and 2007 but most were contained quickly by local fire districts. Two recent fires near the CWPP area caused much damage in a short time. Driven by an east wind, the 2003 Herman Creek fire across the Columbia River in Cascade Locks, Oregon burned 375 acres in about four hours. Fire fighting there was hampered by lack of knowledge of the terrain by the first responders. A structure was lost because it was regarded as too hazardous to protect. In September 2007, the Broughton fire near Underwood, Washington consumed 250 acres, destroyed six homes, and caused evacuation of 400 residents from 100 immediately threatened homes.

Population

The population of Skamania County is 10,700¹. Most of the population is concentrated in the southern quarter of the County, along the Columbia River, and in the Wind River Valley. The county seat is Stevenson. The population of the Greater Stevenson CWPP area is about 1700².

Transportation

Roads that service the Greater Stevenson communities are SR 14, Loop Road, Kanaka Creek Road and Nelson Creek Road. SR 14 is the major east - west route through the Columbia Gorge on the Washington side of the Columbia River. USFS road 2280 could be improved to provide an alternate route to Carson during SR14 closure, but is currently passable only part of the year, and then only using a four wheel drive vehicle.

¹ Based on 2006 census data

²Based on 2006 census data; WA, Office of Financial Management, Accessed 8/2008

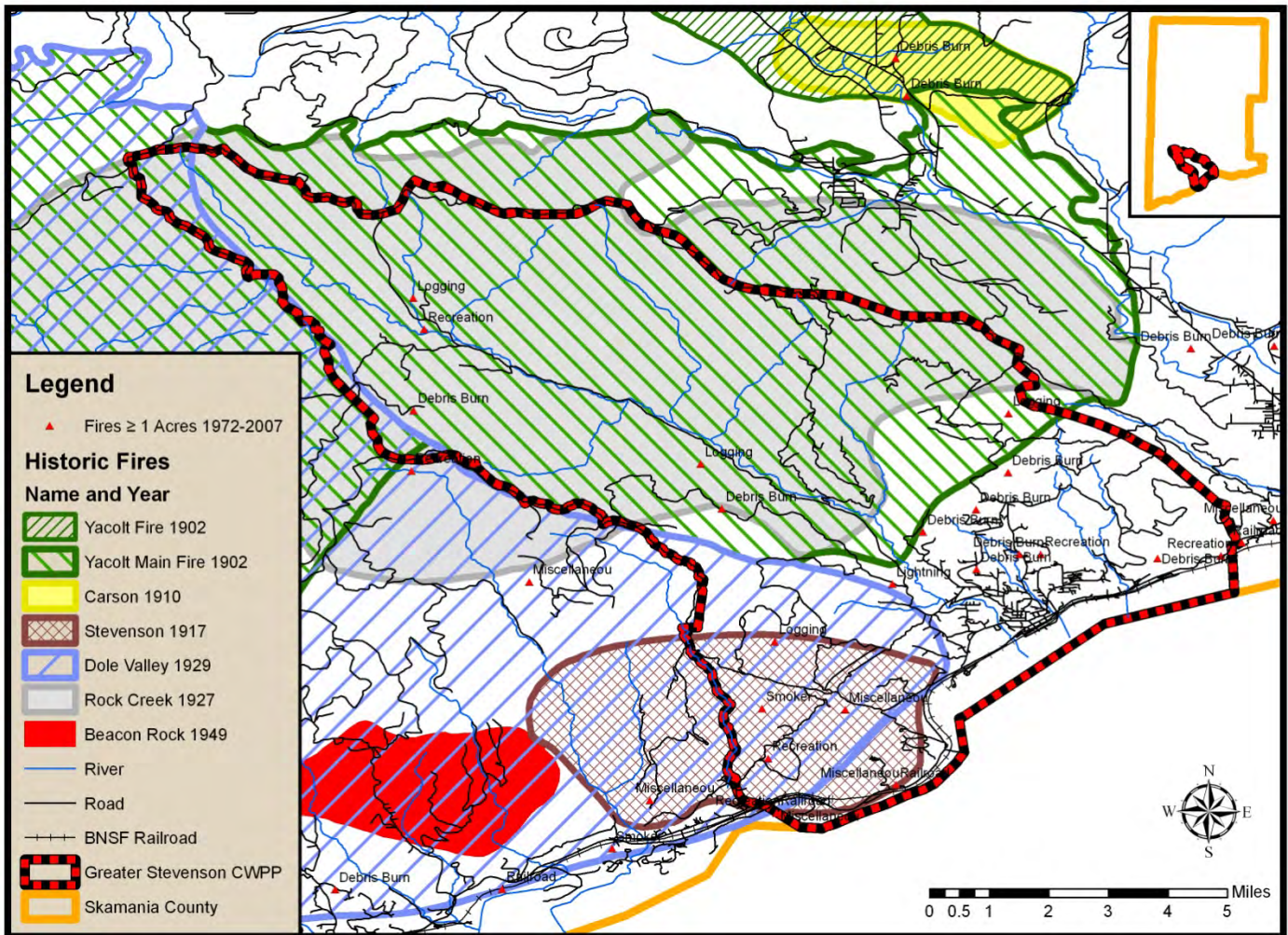


Figure 5. (Appendix – H3) Fire history of planning area. Fire statistics are from DNR statistics and may not include all fire starts. (Map by Gail A. Fullerton)



Figure 6 - The town of Yacolt following the great fire of 1902 which burned through Clark County and Western Skamania County. Snags at the edge of town mark the western boundary of the “awful conflagration.” Photo: Weyerhaeuser Company.

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure in the Greater Stevenson CWPP includes:

Transportation:

Roads: SR-14, Rock Creek Drive, Loop Road, Kanaka Creek Road, Nelson Creek Drive
Bridges (SR 14)
Railroads

Utilities:

Gas
Natural gas lines
Propane tanks
Electricity
Power transmission lines
Water
Water lines and tanks

Other Services:

Schools
Senior Center
Library
Post Office
Churches
County Offices
City Offices
Grocery
Gas Station

PLANNING PROCESS

Planning for the Greater Stevenson CWPP followed recommendations found in “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: a Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities” (National Association of State Foresters 2004), and followed the process developed by Ole Helgerson and Sarah Zeilin for CWPPs completed in Skamania County in 2007. The process consisted of the following steps.

Step One: Convene Decision Makers, Federal Agencies and Interested Parties (HFRA Requirement 1)

The Greater Stevenson CWPP Steering Committee included a core group (made of local government, local fire authority and state representatives), federal agencies, and interested parties/community members. The core group was responsible for the development of a CWPP as described in the HFRA and must mutually agree on the plan’s final contents. The Greater Stevenson Steering Committee met three times to establish, review, and critique the planning components (Appendix A- Meeting Agendas, Minutes). The Greater Stevenson Steering Committee consists of the following entities:

Core group (Decision makers)

Rob Farris – Stevenson Fire Department, Fire Captain
Wayne Martin – Skamania County Fire District #2, Fire Chief
John Carlson – Skamania County, Emergency Manager
Marlon Morat – Skamania County Fire Marshal and Building Inspector
Russ Hovey – Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR)
Pacific Cascade Region Fire Program Specialist

Federal Agencies

Greg Page – USFS, Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) - Mt Adams Ranger District Lead Fire Prevention Technician
Rod Altig – USFS Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Fire Management Officer
Heather Stiles –USFS Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Fire Prevention Technician

Interested Parties/Community Members

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole – City of Stevenson
Frances Heller – Skamania County Fire District #2, Secretary

Don Chambers – Stevenson community member
Kathleen Carlson – Stevenson community member – Stevenson CERT
Adrienne Zuckerman – Underwood Conservation District, Resource Technician

CWPP Team Facilitators

Ole Helgerson - WSU Extension Director and Area Forester
Gail A. Fullerton - Skamania County Wildfire Prevention Coordinator
Sharisse Cordell – AmeriCorps member, Wildfire Prevention Intern

Step Two: Establish Planning Area

Participants of the three CWPP meetings held in Stevenson, Washington delineated the planning area. The planning area is the entire Rock Creek watershed and includes the all of the service area for both Stevenson Fire Department, and Skamania county FD #2. (Figure 3, Appendix H2) The Planning area encompasses 39,053 acres and ranges in elevation from 50 to 37000 feet above sea level.

Step Three: Community Outreach

Community members from the Greater Stevenson CWPP area served on the Greater Stevenson Steering Committee to represent the public throughout the process. (A list of community members appears in Step One on page 7). A questionnaire was created, was distributed at the 2008 Skamania County Fair and dispersed within the community in October 2008 (Appendix B – Community Questionnaire). The survey results confirmed risks and values already determined by the committee. This plan was also open for public comment from December 12, 2008 to January 09, 2009.

Step Four: Community Risk Assessment

The community risk assessment took place two phases. Phase I considered localized risk of ignition, hazards and values to be protected. Phase II consisted of a map workshop and a gap workshop. The map workshop used maps created with GIS to study the location of hazards, values to be protected, infrastructure and escape routes. The gap workshop identified constraints, 'bottle necks', missing links and/or gaps in fire fighting, evacuation, and shelter in place capabilities within the Greater Stevenson planning area.

Risk Assessment Process: Phase I

The Greater Stevenson Steering Committee reviewed basic risk factors such as: risk of ignition, hazards, values to be protected, and wildfire protection capabilities. The committee created a list of elements that fell under each risk factor to more specifically define risks within the planning area. The following components of risk were discussed and ranked by ignition risk.

1. **Risk of Ignition**

Greater Stevenson’s wildfire ignition risks include but are not limited to:

Ignition source	Degree of risk
Man	
Recreation	HIGH
Debris Burning	HIGH
Fireworks	HIGH
BNSF Railroad (track grinding)	HIGH
Children	HIGH
Stupidity	HIGH
Cigarettes	HIGH
Nature	
Lightening	HIGH
Spontaneous Combustion	LOW
Political	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations	HIGH
Critical Area regulations	HIGH
Conflicting rules and guidelines from different government agencies	HIGH

Appendix A: Greater Stevenson CWPP agendas and minutes

AGENDA Stevenson

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Meeting 1

Skamania County Courthouse Annex Basement, 170 N.W. Vancouver Ave., Stevenson, WA
Tuesday, August 5, 2008 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

GOALS:

- 1) Outline CWPP Process
- 2) Introduce Firewise Communities Program
- 3) Establish Goals and Objectives
- 4) Create a Risk Assessment
- 5) Create Steering Committee
- 6) Draft Mission Statement

Time	Speaker(s)	Topic
7:00-7:10	Fullerton, All	Introductions, agenda review
7:10-7:20	Fullerton	Community Wildfire Protection Plan Synopsis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roles• Background• Process• Requirements• Completed Data Collection• Current Status• Main Limitations• Underwood CWPP Outline
7:20-7:30	Underwood Conservation District: Jamie Gomez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beyond the CWPP: Firewise Communities
7:30-7:40	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions
7:40-8:10	Fullerton, Helgerson, All	Create an Underwood Risk Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History• Hazard• Values Protected• Protection Capabilities• Define Communities At Risk
8:10-8:30	Fullerton, Helgerson	Review Underwood Planning Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Underwood Base Map• Locate items from risk assessment on map
8:30-8:40	Fullerton, All	Establish the Underwood CWPP Objectives and Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection of Life, Property and Resources
8:40-8:50	All	Create Steering Committee
8:50	All	Schedule Next Meeting
9:00	All	Adjourn Meeting

Stevenson CWPP Meeting #1
August 5th, 2008 @ 7PM-8PM

7:00-7:05:

- ✓ **Welcome**
- ✓ **Introductions**
- ✓ **Why were here tonight**
- ✓ **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

7:05-7:15:

- ✓ **Roles (mine & yours)**
- ✓ **Background on CWPP**
- ✓ **CWPP Process**
- ✓ **Requirements**
- ✓ **Completion Data Collection**
- ✓ **Current Status**
- ✓ **Main Limitations**

7:15-7:16:

- ✓ **Questions**
- ✓ **Sign-in reminder**

7:16-7:26:

- ✓ **Community Risk Assessments**
 - **Ignitions Risks**
 - **Hazards**
 - **Values to be Protected**

7:26-7:43:

- ✓ **Review Maps**
- ✓ **Review Boundaries**
- ✓ **Map Values to Protect**

7:43-7:50:

- ✓ **Objectives and Goals**
- ✓ **Scheduling Next Meeting**
- ✓ **Adjourn**

7:50-8:00:

- ✓ **After Meeting Discussions**
- ✓ **After Meeting Questions**

Stevenson
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Meeting 2
 Skamania County Courthouse Annex Basement, 170 N.W. Vancouver Ave., Stevenson, WA
 Tuesday, August 26, 2008 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

AGENDA

Goals:

- Write mission statement
- Define planning area
- Identify needs and potential solutions
- Create list of projects
- Prioritize projects
- Agree on a name for the CWPP

Time	Speaker	Topic
7:00 -7:10	Fullerton	Introductions, agenda review, meeting minutes from 8/5//2008
7:10 -7:30	Gomez	Firewise Principals
7:30 -7:40	Fullerton, All	Review goals and objectives Create statement of goals and objectives (put it into words)
7:40-7:45	Fullerton	Review risks and values to be protected (make sure we have locations for all)
7:45 -	All	Create Stevenson Planning Area Boundary - Draw on map
- 8:00	Fullerton, All	Map Workshop: Population Density Future Development Fire History Fuel Loads
8:00-8:10	Fullerton, All	Gap identification workshop: What limits our ability to fight wildfire within the planning area? What do we need to survive a wildfire that we don't have? How will we get it?
8:10-8:20	Fullerton	Grants and requirements
8:20-8:50	Fullerton All	Create a list of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Mitigation • Planning • Education • Equipment/Staffing/ training and practice Prioritize projects
850-855	All	Agree on a name for the CWPP
855-9:00	Fullerton	Review
9:00		Adjourn

Greater Stevenson Community Wildfire Prevention Plan

Meeting #2 Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

1. Agenda Review and Introductions

2. Underwood Conservation District Adrienne Zuckerman showed Firewise Principles slide which included:

- a. Access
- b. Defensible Space
- c. Free Home Risk Assessments
- d. Non-Combustible/Combustible materials

3. Reviewed Goals, Reviewed Objectives and created a mission statement:

- a. **“Protection of Life, Property (both private and public) and Natural Resources from fire through education, planning, and action.”**

4. Review risks and values to be protected and pin down locations for all:

- a. The following was added as **Hazards**:
 - i. Environmental Protection
 - ii. Critical Area
 - iii. Conflict in rules and guideline of multiple agencies
- b. While reviewing the **Values to be Protected** one was added(Economy) and all were categorized as follows:
 - i. Life, Infrastructure, and Homes= **High**
 - ii. Schools, Business, and Economy= **Medium/High**
 - iii. Scenic Beauty, Natural Resources, and Habitat= **Medium**
 - iv. Air Quality= **Low**

5. Created Stevenson Planning Area Boundary while doing the Map Workshop

6. Gap Identification Workshop and creating a list of projects were linked, discussed and decided upon as follows:

- a. **Fuel Mitigation Projects:**
 - i. Drive way fuel reduction and maintance
 - ii. Loop Road Fire Break
 - iii. Kanaka Creek Fire Break
 - iv. Nelson creek Drive
 - v. Fuel Reduction assist for low income seniors and special needs
 - vi. Senior (High School) Projects
- b. **Planning Projects:**
 - i. Accessible road grade

ii. Planning standards that recognize fire safety requirements

c. **Education Projects:**

i. Garden Club

ii. Signage

iii. Fire response accessibility

iv. Develop 1 page handout (inserts)

v. Fair booth

vi. Poster contest

vii. Use press

d. **Equipment, Staffing, and Training:**

i. List requested by Gail A. Fullerton from the fire departments for Stevenson

7. **Grants and requirements were explained as there and if anyone wanted more information to please reach Gail Fullerton at the Office.**

8. **The new name agreed upon for the Stevenson Community Wildfire Protection Plan was:**
“Greater Stevenson CWPP”

9. **Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM after beginning at approximately 7:00 PM**

AGENDA
Greater Stevenson
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Meeting 3
 Skamania County Courthouse Annex Basement, 170 N.W. Vancouver Avenue, Stevenson, WA
 Tuesday, September 23, 2008 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

GOALS:

- 1) Review Projects**
- 2) Add/Remove Projects**
- 3) Prioritize Projects**
- 4) Create an Action Plan**

Time	Speaker(s)	Topic
7:00-7:10	Fullerton, All	Introductions, agenda review, meeting minutes from 8/26/07
7:10-8:00	All	Review and make changes to project descriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Mitigation • Planning • Education • Equipment/Staffing/Exercise
8:00-8:20	All	Add/Remove projects
8:20-8:30	All	Prioritize projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize new projects • Re-prioritize previous projects if necessary
8:30-8:45	Fullerton, All	Create an action plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWPP sustainability • What can we do in the next year
8:45-8:50	Fullerton, All	CWPP and FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Compliance
8:50-9:00	Fullerton, All	Review meeting, adjourn meeting THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!!!

Greater Stevenson Community Wildfire Prevention Plan

Meeting #3 Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2008 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Reviewed Goals, Reviewed plan name and mission statement:

“Greater Stevenson CWPP”

“Protection of Life, Property (both private and public) and Natural Resources from fire through education, planning, and action.”

Reviewed Stevenson Planning Area Boundary

Reviewed all previous meetings and projects

Education Projects:

Educate All Community members about firewise principles

Priority areas include north Stevenson, Interlaken and Wauna Lakes. High Priority

Signage	High
Fire response accessibility	High
Develop 1 page handout (inserts)	High
Involve the press	High
County Fair booth	Medium
Poster contest	Medium
Use press, Newspaper Articles	High
Garden Club (firewise plants)	Medium

Planning Projects:

Require roads to any new home to be wide enough and and to have a gentle enough slope to accommodate a fire truck. Very High

This should already be covered in County road standards and should be adopted into the city private road standards if not all ready incorporated. Skamania County Fire Chiefs and EM/ES Council worked on this extensively about 3 to 4 years ago.

Improve radio communications (see Equipment Staffing and Training) Very High

Planning standards at all levels of government: Federal, State, County and city that recognize fire safety requirements High

Resolve interagency conflicts to defensible space. High

Conduct interagency drills (improve preparedness of FDs and Community,

Involve CERT High

Fuel Mitigation Projects:

Drive way fuel reduction and maintance	High
Fuel reduction along escape Routes	High
Loop Road Fire Break	
Kanaka Creek Fire Break	
Nelson creek Drive	
Fuel Reduction assist for low income seniors and people with special needs	Very High
Interlaken and Wauna Lakes fuel reduction	High
Senior (High School) Projects	Medium

Equipment, Staffing, and Training:

Wildfire response capabilities of Stevenson FD and FD #3 have been received from Rob Farris.

Communications interoperability (P-25 compliance of all partners) Very High

DNR and USFS need to bring their radio systems up to Washington State Homeland Security Region IV communication standards. Local Fire Districts communications equipment is years beyond most of the local DNR and USFS equipment as far as technology and interoperability

Plan Sustainability

Because the Greater Stevenson CWPP is a “living document” the steering committee will meet as needed to discuss grant proposals, plan amendments, and current status of the plan. The plan will be reviewed annually by the FD #2 and Stevenson FD chiefs, and Stevenson City Council and FD #2 commissioners. The USFS, WA DNR, and other interested agencies will be included in the process.

Action Plan: What can we do now to get started

1. “Firewise” educational materials included in packets handed out with building permit applications.
2. Signage. (Heather Stiles shared an Excellent poster produced by IDOL. In general signs in front of fire stations, along roads and other places where they will be seen that remind people of their responsibility for keeping their property firewise.
3. Identify “sparkplugs” contacts in as many communities as possible and support them in education, planning and project work.
4. Submit AFG grant for needed equipment and training

Appendix B: Community Questionnaire

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Questionnaire

The purpose of this survey is to involve members of Communities that are in the process of creating a CWPP. The intent of the CWPP is to protect life, private and public property, and natural resources in the event of wildfire. What we need from you are ideas about specific areas that you want to protect. For example: water sources, wilderness areas, recreation spots, unknown cemeteries, watersheds, hunting grounds, archaeological sites, roads, etc. Feel free to use the back of this page. Please return to Skamania County Wildfire Prevention booth at the fair, put in the box near where you picked up the questionnaire or mail to Skamania Title III "Firewise" PO Box 790, Stevenson, WA, 98648

1. Which community do you live in (Please Circle): Stevenson, Skamania, North Bonneville, Underwood, Mill A, Other.
(If other name of community)
2. As a community member what areas within Skamania County do you want protected in the event of a wildfire?
3. What projects do you think could improve your community's fire awareness and responsiveness?
4. Do you support the idea of seeking grant funding to upgrade our local, state and federal fire fighting organization's equipment?
5. Would you be willing to volunteer or work on your property to meet a matching requirement for grant funding?
6. Any other suggestions, concerns, comments, or questions regarding Skamania County CWPP.s

To stay connected to the progress of Skamania County CWPPs please fill out the following confidential information.

Name(s)

Address

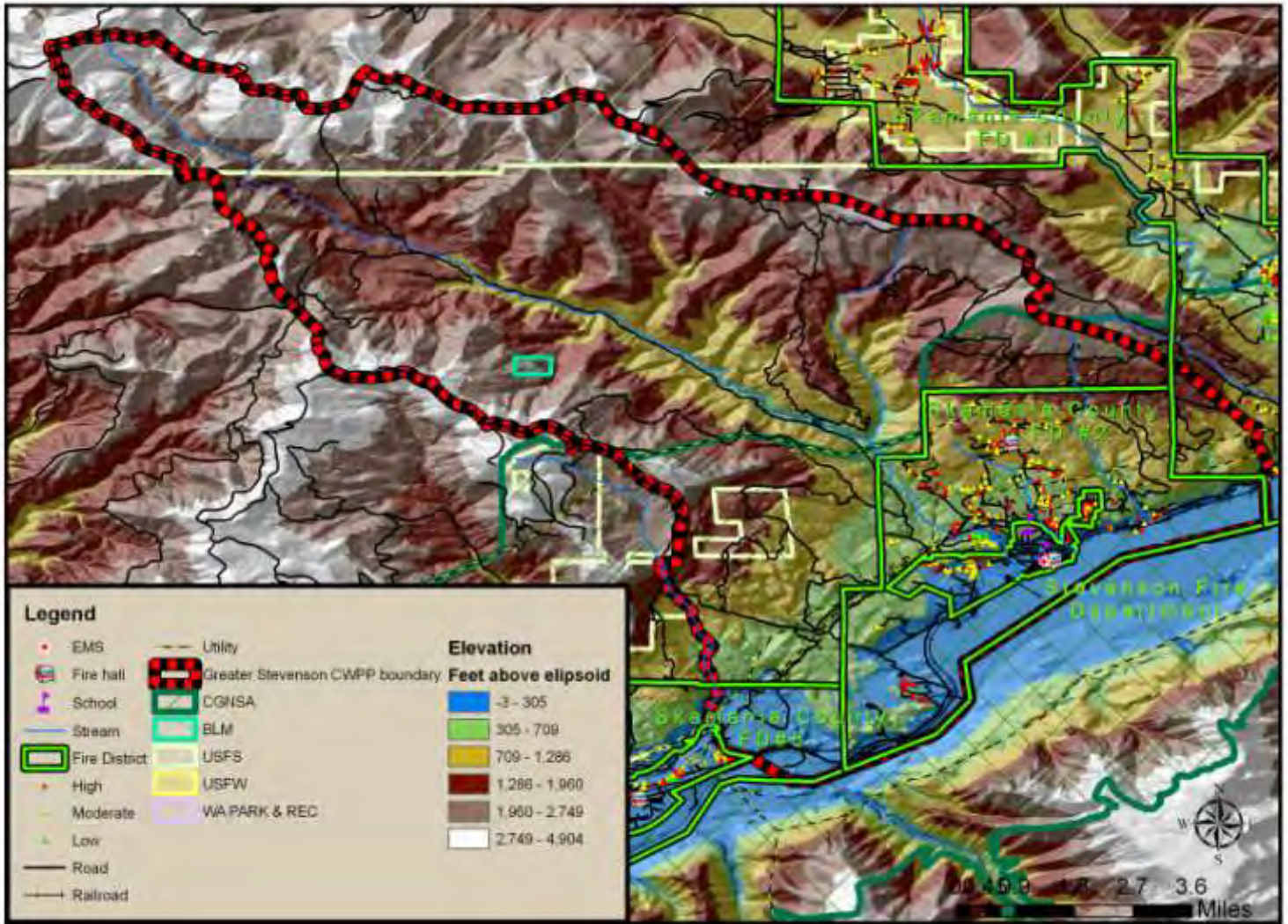
Phone

Email

For more information contact:

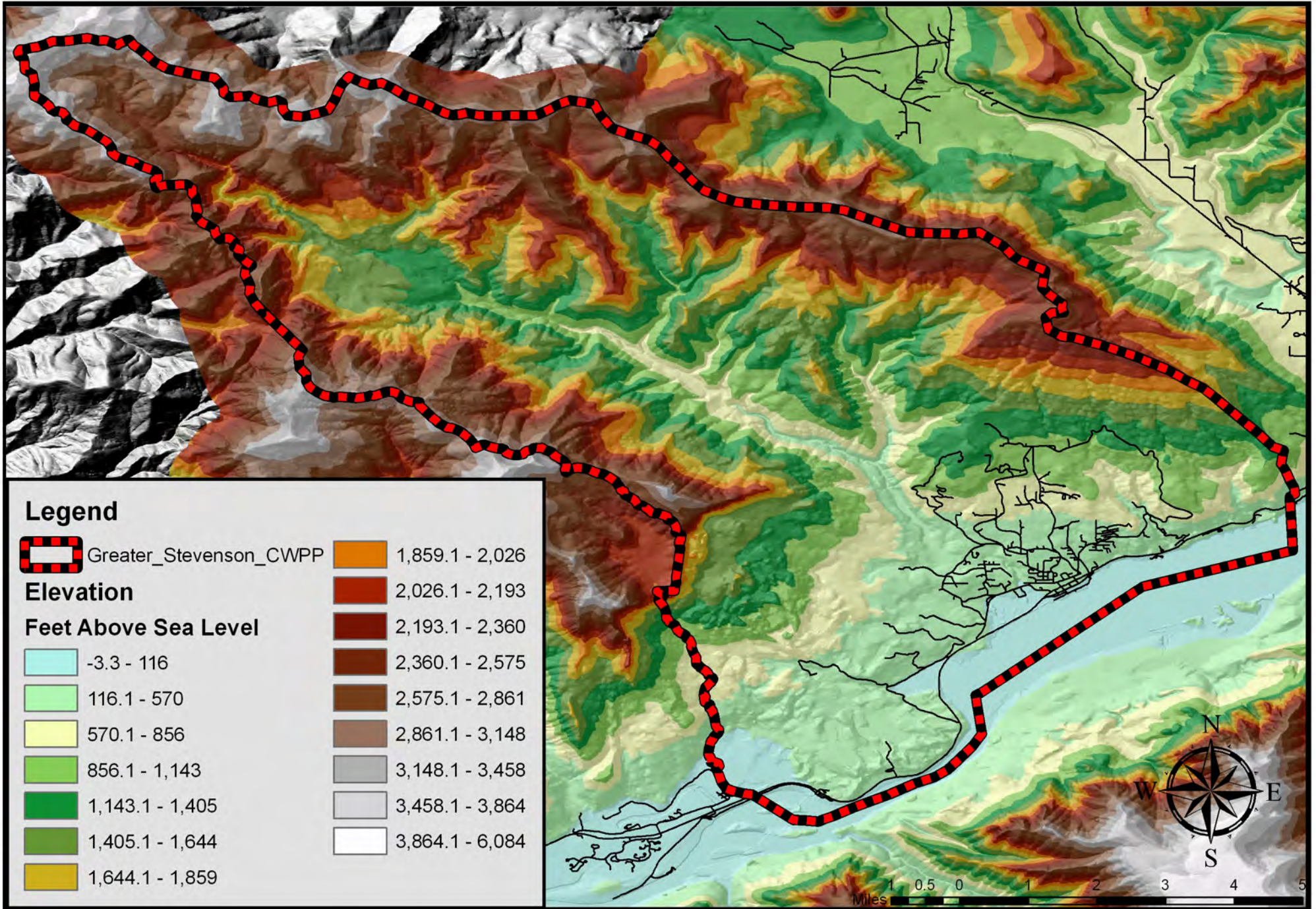
Gail A. Fullerton, Wildfire Prevention Coordinator or
Sharisse Cordell, Wildfire Prevention Intern
(509) 427-4130

skamaniawfc@saw.net

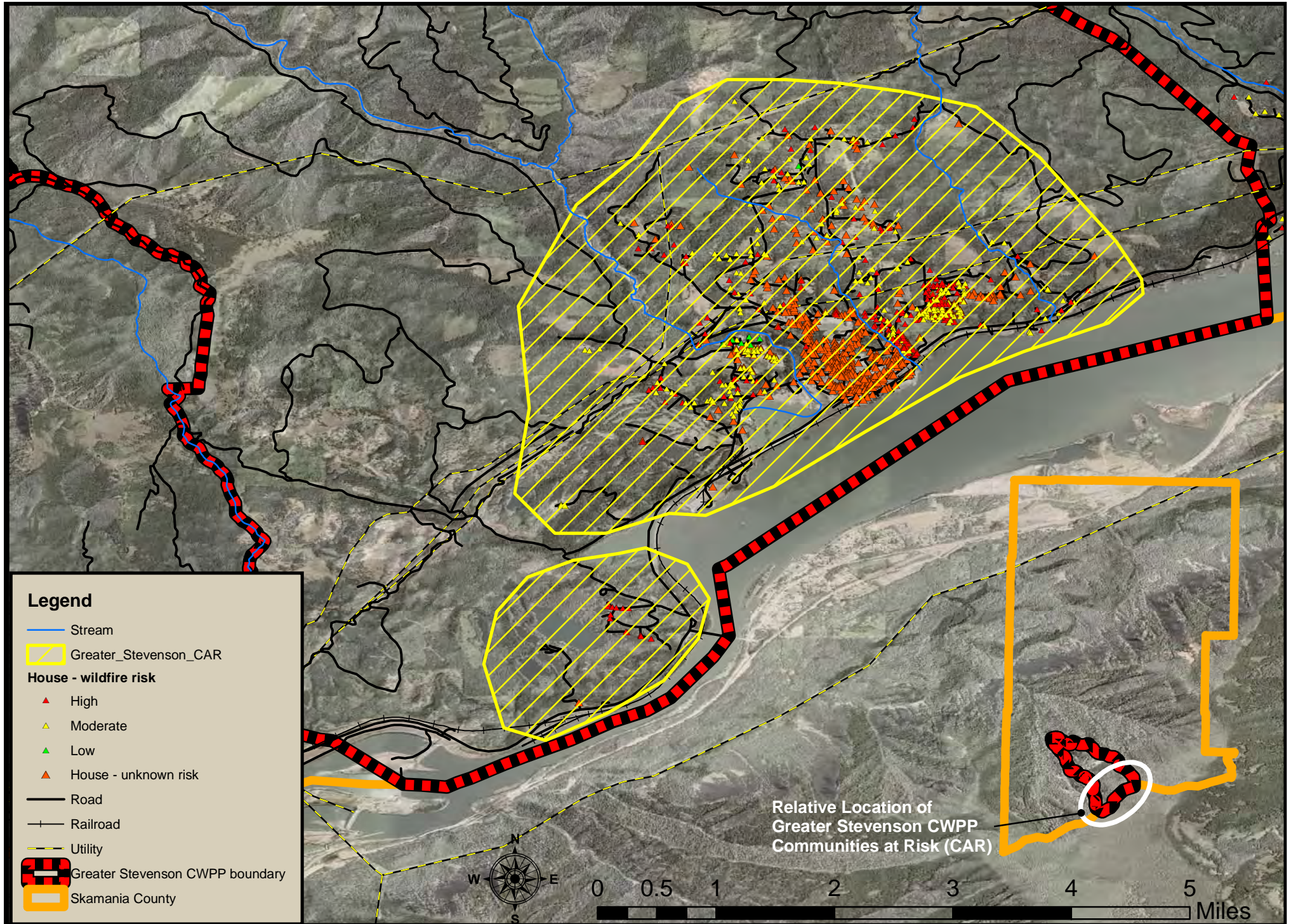


Greater Stevenson CWPP Planning Area

Appendix H4 - Greater Stevenson CWPP - Topography



H5 - Greater Stevenson CWPP Communities At Risk (CAR)



Appendix H6 - Greater Stevenson CWPP - Anderson Fuel Models

