

Chapter 5: Treatment Recommendations

5 Overview

Critical to the implementation of this Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan will be the identification of, and implementation of, an integrated and comprehensive schedule of treatments targeted at achieving an elimination of the lives lost, and reduction in structures destroyed, infrastructure compromised, and unique ecosystems damaged that serve to sustain the way-of-life and economy of Washington County and the region. Since there are many land management agencies and hundreds of private landowners in Washington County, it is reasonable to expect that differing schedules of adoption will be made and varying degrees of compliance will be observed across all ownerships.

The Federal land management agencies in Washington County, specifically the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, are participants in this planning process and have contributed to its development. Where available, their schedule of WUI treatments has been summarized in this section to better facilitate a correlation between their identified planning efforts and the efforts of Washington County.

This chapter of the plan will be separated into a few, logical sections grouping like activities together. Section 5.2 details policy and safety proposals, section 5.3 explores activities related to people and structure protection, section 5.4 looks at infrastructure improvements, section 5.5 explores fire fighting resources and capabilities, while 5.6 makes recommendations linked to land management and what the USFS has proposed their lands in Washington County. These five sections of this chapter are intended to address, together, the interrelated components making up the WUI issues for Washington County with recommendations. Proposals in this chapter have been generated from the preceding chapters where the detailed risk assessments were made.

All risk assessments were made based on the conditions existing during 2003-2004, thus, the recommendations in this section have been made in light of those conditions. However, the components of wildfire risk and the preparedness of the county's resources are not static. It will be necessary to fine-tune this plan's recommendations annually to adjust for changes in the components of risk, population density changes, infrastructure modifications, and other factors.

As part of the Policy of Washington County in relation to this planning document, this entire **Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan** should be reviewed annually at a special meeting of the Washington County Commissioners, open to the public, where action items, priorities, budgets, and modifications can be made or confirmed. A written review of the plan should be prepared (or arranged) by the Chairman of the County Commissioners, detailing plans for the year's activities, and made available to the general public ahead of the meeting (in accord with the Idaho Open Public Meeting Laws). Amendments to the plan should be detailed at this meeting, documented, and attached to the formal plan as an amendment to the WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Re-evaluation of this plan should be made on the 5th anniversary of its acceptance, and every 5-year period following.

Prioritization of activities recommended in this plan should be made by the Washington County Commissioners. During the annual review of this plan, reprioritization can be justified in response to changing conditions and funding opportunities.

5.1 Possible Fire Mitigation Activities

As part of the implementation of fire mitigation activities in Washington County, a variety of management tools may be used. Management tools include but are not limited to the following:

- Homeowner and landowner education
- Building code changes for structures and infrastructure in the WUI
- Home site defensible zone through fuels modification
- Community defensible zone fuels alteration
- Access improvements
- Access creation
- Emergency response enhancements (training, equipment, locating new fire stations, new fire districts)
- Regional land management recommendations for private, state, and federal landowners

Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities. Risks and uncertainties relating to fire management activities must be understood, analyzed, communicated, and managed as they relate to the cost of either doing or not doing an activity. Net gains to the public benefit will be an important component of decisions.

5.2 WUI Safety & Policy

Wildfire mitigation efforts should be supported by a set of policies and regulations at the county level that maintain a solid foundation for safety and consistency. The recommendations enumerated here serve that purpose. Because these items are regulatory in nature, they will not necessarily be accompanied by cost estimates. These recommendations are policy related in nature and therefore are recommendations to the appropriate elected officials; debate and formulation of alternatives will serve to make these recommendations suitable and appropriate.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.1.a: Engage in discussions and debate in County Commissioner’s meeting to talk about potential need for amending existing building codes to require a site plan be approved by Fire District Chiefs prior to issuance of Building Permits.	Protection of people and structures by determining if applying a standard of road widths, access, and building regulations suitable to insure new homes can be protected while minimizing risks to firefighters is needed and justified in the county. (defensible space, roads and access management, water systems, building codes, signage, and maintenance of private forest and range lands)	County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts and Planning and Zoning.	Year 1 debate and potential adoption of revised code, if needed (2004). Review adequacy of changes annually, make changes as needed.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.1.b: Consider updating Rural Addressing to lead to an enhanced 911 service for county.	Protection of people and structures by improving database of structures in the county which will link to fire fighting efforts and improved response times. Also linked to developing an enhanced 911 system.	County Assessor's office in cooperation with the County Commissioners Office	To be implemented during first year (2004), pending funding and adoption (if needed) by elected officials. May take most of a year to complete. Estimate cost at around \$55,000 to complete entire county
5.1.c: Enact an enhanced 911 Service with emphasis on cellular phone locators.	Protection of people and structures by improving the ability of emergency response personnel to respond to an emergency.	County Commissioners in combination with County Sheriff's Office, County Assessor's Office and Fire Departments.	Can be completed only after the Rural Addressing project is in place. Target implementation during year 2 (2005) of this project.
5.1.d: Rural Road Sign Improvements across the county , link local names to USFS road numbers when possible, use standardized signs 9' signs with 6" letters.	Protection of people, structures, and infrastructure by improving the ability of emergency services personnel, residents, and visitors to navigate roads.	County Roads Department in cooperation with County Commissioners, and Assessor	Can be completed during year 1 (2004) pending funding to implement the project. Estimate \$8,000 for signs and posting.
5.1.e: Rural Fire District Boundary Signs Improvements across the county (entering and exiting signs).	Protection of people, structures, and infrastructure by improving the familiarity of residents and visitors to understand boundaries and protection zones.	City and Rural Fire Districts in cooperation with County Commissioners	Can be completed during year 1 (2004) pending funding to implement the project. Estimate \$6,000 for signs and posting.
5.1.f: Engage in discussions and debate in County Commissioner's meeting to talk about potential need to develop County policy concerning building materials used in high-risk WUI areas on existing structures and new construction, emphasis on water supplies and building materials in high-risk areas.	Protection of people and structures by evaluating and if needed, improving the ability of emergency response personnel to respond to threatened homes in high-risk areas.	County Commissioners Office in cooperation with Rural Fire Departments, Planning and Zoning, and Building Inspectors.	Year 1 (2004) activity: Consider and develop policy to address construction materials for homes and businesses located in high wildfire risk areas. Specifically, a County policy concerning wooden roofing materials and flammable siding, especially where juxtaposed near wildland fuels.
5.1.g: Engage in discussions and debate in County Commissioner's meeting to talk about potential need for Development and Enforcement of a more restrictive burn permit system in conjunction with a more restrictive burning	Protection of people and structures by reducing wildfire ignition through debris burning where resources or conditions are not adequate to support burning (approx. 4% of ignitions in Washington County were ignited from debris burning).	Idaho Department of Lands, Rural Fire Departments and local Landowners	Consider and develop policy to address this issue in cooperation with rural fire chiefs and the IDL to better coordinate on timing and location of allowable debris burning.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
<p>season. Consider notifying a central clearing house of the issuance of all burning permits in Washington County.</p>			
<p>5.1.h: Development of a “camp fire” use policy for recreation related camp fires in camp grounds and rural areas. Include posted warnings during periods of high or extreme fire danger.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by reducing wildfire ignition through camp fire escape where resources or conditions are not adequate to contain fires.</p>	<p>US Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Rural Fire Departments and local Landowners</p>	<p>Consider and develop policy to address this issue in cooperation with the US Forest Service (camp ground management), rural fire chiefs and the IDL to better coordinate on timing and location of allowable camp fires.</p>
<p>5.1.i: Engage in discussions and debate in County Commissioner’s meeting to talk about potential need to develop a formal WUI Advisory Committee to advise County Commissioners on WUI Issues and Treatments</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by improving the ability of decision makers to make informed decisions about wildfire issues.</p>	<p>County Commissioners Office</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004) activity: Formalize a committee, its membership and service decided on by the County Commissioners, to collaborate on WUI issues within Washington County. Members potentially to include land management organizations and companies, private landowners, and fire protection personnel.</p>
<p>5.1.j: Develop a county-wide GIS database which can be used for rapid response during wildfire events assisting fire suppression efforts.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by utilizing a GIS system to facilitate rapid dispatch of people to fire incidents.</p>	<p>County Commissioners Office, Rural Fire Departments, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004) activity: Develop a needs assessment to determine GIS needs and follow-up to implement within the next 2 years. Use the database created during the preparation of this plan as initial data for this effort.</p>

5.3 People and Structures

The protection of people and structures will be tied together closely as the loss of life in the event of a wildland fire is generally linked to a person who could not, or did not, flee a structure threatened by a wildfire. The other incident is a fire fighter who suffers the loss of life during the combating of a fire. Many of the recommendations in this section will define a set of criteria for implementation while others will be rather specific in extent and application.

Many of the recommendations in this section involve education and increasing awareness of the residents of Washington County. These recommendations stem from a variety of factors including items that became obvious during the analysis of the public surveys, discussions during public meetings, and observations about choices made by residents living in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Over and over, the a common theme was present that pointed to a situation of landowners not recognizing risk factors:

- Homeowners in the public mail survey ranked their home site wildfire risk factors significantly lower than a random sample of home rankings completed by fire mitigation specialists.
- Fire District personnel pointed to numerous examples of inadequate access to homes of people who believe they have adequate ingress.
- Discussions with the general public indicated an awareness of wildland fire risk, but they could not specifically identify risk factors.
- Almost half of the respondents to the public mail survey indicated (46%) that they want to participate in educational opportunities focused on the WUI and what they can do to increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire.

In addition to those items enumerated in Table 5.1, residents and policy makers of Washington County should recognize certain factors that exist today, that in their absence would lead to an increase in the risk factors associated with wildland fires in the WUI of Washington County. These items listed below should be encouraged, acknowledged, and recognized for their contributions to the reduction of wildland fire risks:

Livestock Grazing in and around the communities of Washington County can reduce fine fuels to various levels and have done so in recent times. Domestic livestock graze on grasses, forbs, and certain shrubs in the area. During grazing related activities, some trampling effects may occur at various levels on certain fine fuels in the area. Ranchers tending their herds, or other resource professional in the field may observe ignition or potentially risk-related activities in and around the communities of the county. Livestock grazing in this region should be considered into the future as a low-cost, positive tool of wildfire mitigation for the wildland-urban interface in this area.

Agriculture is a significant component of Washington County's economy. Much of the valley bottomlands and rangeland interface is dotted and intermixed with agricultural crops. The original conversion of these lands to agriculture from valley bottom and rangeland, was targeted at the most productive soils and juxtaposition to water. Many of these productive ecosystems were consequently also at some of the highest risk to wildland fires because biomass accumulations increased in these productive landscapes. The result today, is that much of the valley bottom and rangeland historically prone to frequent fires, has been converted to agriculture, which is at a much lower risk than prior to its conversion. The preservation of a viable agricultural economy in Washington County is integral to the continued management of wildfire risk in this region.

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items, Planning Horizon and Estimated Costs
5.2.a: Youth and Adult Wildfire Educational Programs	Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of WUI risks, how to recognize risk factors, and how to modify those factors to reduce risk	Cooperative effort including: University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Idaho Department of Lands USFS Boise National Forest and State and Private Forestry Office Bureau of Land Management Local School Districts	To start immediately using existing educational program materials and staffing. Formal needs assessment should be responsibility of University of Idaho Cooperative Extension faculty and include the development of an integrated WUI educational series by year 3 (2006). Costs initially to be funded through existing budgets for these activities to be followed with grant monies to continue the programs as identified in the formal needs assessment.
5.2.b: Wildfire risk assessments of homes in identified communities	Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of specific risk factors of individual home sites in the at-risk landscapes. Only after these are completed can home site treatments follow.	To be implemented by County Commissioners Office in cooperation with the Rural Fire Departments . Actual work may be completed by Wildfire Mitigation Consultants.	Cost: Approximately \$100 per home site for inspection, written report, and discussions with the homeowners. There are approximately 4,000 housing units in Washington County, roughly 300 (7.5%) of these structures would benefit from a home site inspection and budget determination for a total cost estimate of \$40,000. Action Item: Secure funding and contract to complete the inspections during years 1 & 2 (2004-05) Home site inspection reports and estimated budget for each home site's treatments will be a requirement to receive funding for treatments through grants.
5.2.c: Home Site WUI Treatments	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Washington County	County Commissioners in cooperation with Fire Mitigation Consulting company and Rural Fire Districts <i>Complete concurrently with 5.4.b.</i>	Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates Estimate that treatments in rangelands will cost approximately \$1,000 per home site for a defensible space of roughly 150'. Approximately 300 homes in this category for an estimated cost of \$30,000. Median home and business assessed value (land and structures) in County is \$55,800 B/C Ratio of this treatment is approximately 1:56. Home site treatments can begin after the securing of funding for the treatments and immediate implementation in 2004 and will continue from year 1 through 5 (2008).

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items, Planning Horizon and Estimated Costs
5.2.d: Community Defensible Zone WUI Treatments	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding high risk communities in the WUI of Washington County	County Commissioners in cooperation with Fire Mitigation Consulting company and Rural Fire Districts	<p>Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates.</p> <p>Years 2-5 (2004-08): Treat high risk wildland fuels from home site defensible space treatments (4.4.c) to an area extending 400 feet to 750 feet beyond home defensible spaces, where steep slopes and high accumulations of risky fuels exist. Should link together home treatment areas. Treatments target high risk concentrations of fuels and not 100% of the area identified. To be completed only after or during the creation of home defensible spaces have been implemented.</p> <p>Communities to target: Weiser (slopes north and northwest of the city in rangelands), Cambridge, Midvale, Brownlee Reservoir home developments, and Mann Creek Areas.</p> <p>Approximate average cost on a per structure basis is \$1,000. Couple this cost with the home defensibility space costs of \$1,000. The number of structures to benefit from these treatments include the 300 structures receiving home site treatments plus an estimated 1,500 more structures. The average B/C Ratio for these treatments combined in Washington County is 1:28.</p>
5.2.e: Maintenance of Home Site WUI Treatments	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Washington County	County Commissioners Office in cooperation with Rural Fire Departments and local home owners	<p>Home site defensibility treatments must be maintained periodically to sustain benefits of the initial treatments.</p> <p>Each site should be assessed 5 years following initial treatment</p> <p>Estimated re-inspection cost will be \$50 per home site on all sites initially treated or recommended for future inspections (\$15,000)</p> <p>Follow-up inspection reports with treatments as recommended years 5 through 10.</p>
5.2.f: Re-entry of Home Site WUI Treatments	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Washington County	County Commissioners Office in cooperation with Rural Fire Departments and local home owners	<p>Re-entry treatments will be needed periodically to maintain the benefits of the initial WUI home treatments. Each re-entry schedule should be based on the initial inspection report recommendations, observations, and changes in local conditions. Generally occurs every 5-10 years.</p>

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items, Planning Horizon and Estimated Costs
<p>5.2.g: Survey and Rate bridges, cattle guards, and limiting road surfaces in the county on all private property.</p>	<p>Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy by improving access for residents and fire fighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Reduces the risk of a road failure that leads to the isolation of people or the limitation of emergency vehicle and personnel access during an emergency.</p>	<p>County Roads and Bridges Department in cooperation with US Forest Service, BLM, State of Idaho (Lands and Transportation), industrial forestland owners, ranchers, and private landowners.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Update existing assessment of travel surfaces, bridges, and cattle guards in Washington County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants)</p> <p>Year 2 (2005): Conduct engineering assessment of limiting weight restrictions for all surfaces (e.g., bridge weight load maximums). Estimate cost of \$47,500 which might be shared between County, USFS, BLM, State, and private based on landownership associated with road locations.</p> <p>Year 2 (2005): Post weight restriction signs on all crossings, copy information to rural fire districts and wildland fire protection agencies in affected areas. Estimate cost at roughly \$15-\$20,000 for signs and posting.</p> <p>Year 3 (2006): Identify limiting road surfaces in need of improvements to support wildland fire fighting vehicles and other emergency equipment. Develop plan for improving limiting surfaces including budgets, timing, and resources to be protected for prioritization of projects (benefit/cost ratio analysis). Create budget based on full assessment.</p>
<p>5.2.h: Access Improvements for private property with one-way-in and one-way-out. Identify key private roads that access larger areas.</p>	<p>Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy by improving access for residents and fire fighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Allows for alternative escape routes when a primary access is compromised.</p>	<p>County Roads and Bridges Department in cooperation with US Forest Service, BLM, State of Idaho (Lands and Transportation), and rangeland or forestland owners.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Update existing assessment of roads in Washington County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants).</p> <p>Year 2 (2005): Specifically address access issues identified in assessment. Develop alternatives for improving access limitations. Landowners and agencies to play significant role in alternative development.</p> <p>Year 3 (2006): Secure funding and implement projects to improve limiting access. No way to estimate costs until priorities are set and options identified.</p>
<p>5.2.i: Access Improvements through road-side fuels management</p>	<p>Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy by improving access for residents and fire fighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Allows for a road based defensible area that can be</p>	<p>County Roads and Bridges Department in cooperation with US Forest Service, BLM, State of Idaho (Lands and Transportation), and rangeland or forestland owners.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Update existing assessment of roads in Washington County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants).</p> <p>Year 2 (2005): Specifically address access issues to communities and recreation areas in the County, and others identified in assessment. Target 100' on downhill side of roads and 75' on uphill side for estimated cost of \$15,000 per mile of road treated. If 10 miles of roadway are prioritized for treatment (est.) B/C Ratio of 1:15 is achieved. This B/C ratio</p>

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items, Planning Horizon and Estimated Costs
	linked to a terrain based defensible areas.		may be maintained in many rural treatment areas of the county. Year 3 (2006): Secure funding and implement projects to treat road-side fuels.

5.4 Infrastructure

Significant infrastructure refers to the communications, transportation (road and rail networks), energy transport supply systems (gas and power lines), and water supply that service a region or a surrounding area. All of these components are important to the West Central Highlands, and to Washington County specifically. These networks are by definition a part of the Wildland-Urban Interface in the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems. Without supporting infrastructure a community's structures may be protected, but the economy and way of life lost. As such, a variety of components will be considered here in terms of management philosophy, potential policy recommendations, and on-the-ground activities.

Communication Infrastructure: This component of the WUI seems to be diversified across the county with multiple source and destination points, and a spread-out support network. Although site specific treatments will impact directly local networks, little needs done to insure the system's viability.

Some recommendations from the WUI Wildfire Mitigation Planning committee include:

- Possible repeater funding for Snake River area (Sturgill Peak.), currently three in the area.
- Weiser area has several repeaters, not a problem
- Cuddy Mountain Repeater has eliminated many black spots
- Satellite phone in Midvale area would be helpful or a new cell phone tower
- Upgrade all Rural Fire Districts and the City Fire Departments to a compliment of narrowband radios (digital)

Transportation Infrastructure (road and rail networks): A few roads in the county have limiting characteristics, such as steep grades, narrow travel surfaces, sharp turning radii, low load limit bridges and cattle guards, and heavy accumulations of fuels adjacent to, and overtopping some roads. Some of these road surfaces access remote forestland and rangeland areas. Specifically Highways 95 and 71 are targeted and identified as priority treatment roads. While their improvements will facilitate access in the case of a wildfire, they are not necessarily the priority for treatments in the county.

Roads that have these inferior characteristics and access homes and businesses are the priority for improvements in the county. Specific recommendations for these roads are enumerated in Table 5.2.

Primary and secondary evacuation routes have been identified in this planning process to serve as primary evacuation routes in the case of emergencies, including wildfires (Appendix I). These routes should be maintained for emergency use and posted with "FEMA Evacuation Route" signs. Law enforcement in cooperation with emergency services will determine when these emergencies exist. It is the goal of this planning process to identify them and increase their priority in receiving wildfire mitigation treatments to insure their emergency use.

Energy Transport Supply Systems (gas and power lines): During the Hall Fire in nearby Adams County, the high tension power lines maintained by Idaho Power that cross the region from the Snake River to McCall and then to Riggins were threatened by heat, smoke and particulate matter in the smoke. The power lines were at risk to arcing and potentially failure. Fortunately, power was not lost to the communities of Adams and Valley counties as a result of the fire, but it did point to the need for an increased focus on fuels management under and immediately adjacent to the high tension power lines in this region (Appendix I).

A number of power lines crisscross Washington County from Hydroelectric Dams located along the Snake River. Because of the location, Washington County's land surfaces provide access to power supplies and population centers in Idaho and parts of Oregon. Most of these power lines cross over rangeland ecosystems. When fires ignite in these vegetation types, the fires tend to be fast moving and burn at lower intensities than those in forestland fires. However, when these sagebrush communities become very mature and thick, there is a potential for high temperatures and low humidity with high winds to produce enough heat and smoke to threaten power line stability. Observations across the county of these high tension power lines lead to the conclusion that current agricultural uses coupled with livestock grazing and urban developments have mitigated this potential substantially. It is the recommendation of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan that this situation be evaluated annually and monitored and treatments be targeted where the need is the greatest. Local ranchers and land managers will be the greatest resource for identifying these opportunities.

Water Supply: In many of Idaho's communities, water is derived from surface flow that is treated and piped to homes and businesses. When wildfires burn a region, they threaten these watersheds by the removal of vegetation, creation of ash and sediment. As such, watersheds should be afforded the highest level of protection from catastrophic wildfire impacts. In Washington County, water is supplied to the majority of homes from single home or multiple home wells.

Agricultural water supply from the region's rivers and lakes is an important component of the viability of the regional economy (agriculture and ranching). These resources are at-risk to wildland fires. Their protection comes from the limiting of the extent and frequency of wildfires in any given watershed. Based on the analysis of past fires in Washington County and the current status of wildland fire protection in the region, this component of the economy seems to be stable and reasonably protected. Changes to the status quo are not recommended at this time, in light of the other recommendations in this plan.

5.5 Resource and Capability Enhancements

There are a number of resource and capability enhancements identified by the rural and wildland fire fighting districts in Washington County. For specific details on these comments, refer to sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2. All of the needs identified by the districts are in line with increasing the ability to respond to emergencies in the WUI and are fully supported by the planning committee.

Specific reoccurring themes of needed resources and capabilities include:

- More water tenders for Rural Fire Districts
- Improved radio capabilities within each district and for mutual aid operations (including digital capability and improved coverage)
- Retention and recruitment of volunteers
- Training and development of rural firefighters in structure and wildland fire

The implementation of each issue will rely on either the isolated efforts of the fire districts or a concerted effort by the county to achieve equitable enhancements across all of the districts. Given historic trends, individual departments competing against neighboring departments for grant monies and equipment will not necessarily achieve county wide equity. However, the West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council may be an organization uniquely suited to work with all of the districts in Washington County and adjacent counties to assist in the prioritization of needs across district and even county lines. Once prioritized, the

WCH RC&D is in a position to assist these districts with identifying, competing for, and obtaining grants and equipment to meet these needs. The BLM and the US Forest Service will be integral partners in this process.

Table 5.3. WUI Action Items in Fire Fighting Resources and Capabilities.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
<p>5.3.a: Obtain 3 additional 3,000-5,000 gal water tenders for rural fire districts.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council in cooperation with rural and wildland fire districts and the County Commissioners.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding or equipment (surplus) sources.</p> <p>Year 1 or 2 (2004-05): Acquire and deliver needed equipment to districts based on prioritization by need and funding awards.</p>
<p>5.3.b: Enhance radio availability in each district, link in to existing dispatch, improve coverage and range within the region. Upgrade to digital capability if federal agencies are making that transition first. Emphasize the addition of a radio repeaters.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>BLM and the West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council in cooperation with rural and wildland fire districts</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Summarize existing two-way radio capabilities and limitations. Identify costs to upgrade existing equipment and locate funding opportunities.</p> <p>Year 2-3 (2005-06): Identify opportunities for radio repeater towers located in the region for multi-county benefits.</p> <p>Year 2 (2005): Acquire and install upgrades as needed.</p>
<p>5.3.c: Retention of Volunteer Fire Fighters</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with broad base of county citizenry to identify options, determine plan of action, and implement it.</p>	<p>5 Year Planning Horizon, extended planning time frame</p> <p>Target an increased recruitment (+10%) and retention (+20% longevity) of volunteers</p> <p>Year 1 (2004): Develop incentives program and implement it.</p>

Table 5.3. WUI Action Items in Fire Fighting Resources and Capabilities.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
<p>5.3.d: Increased training and capabilities of fire fighters for individual districts and as annual or periodic, countywide training opportunities to facilitate standardized level of training and cross district familiarization of people and resources.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the BLM and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural fire fighting training.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2004): Develop a multi-county training schedule that extends 2 or 3 years in advance (continuously). Identify funding and resources needed to carry out training opportunities and sources of each to acquire. Year 1 (2004): Begin implementing training opportunities for volunteers.</p>
<p>5.3.e. Build training ground for city and rural fire fighters to use in qualifications and skill development.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the BLM and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural fire fighting training.</p>	<p>Year 1 locate and acquire land for facility. Develop layout and design, seek funding. Year 2 build facility and begin multi-county training schedules. Include wildfire and rural firefighter training.</p>
<p>5.3.f. Determine best method of expanding the capacity of the Cambridge RFD to provide storage of equipment. Options include expansion of current facilities or construction of new facility as a "sub-station" in the district.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the State Fire Marshall's Office and the County Commissioners.</p>	<p>Year 1 involve interested parties and identify potential options and costs. Seek grants and other funding sources to implement project. Year 2 implement the expansion or construction of new facility.</p>
<p>5.3.g. Seek funding to acquire additional equipment to replace aging equipment in the Cambridge RFD.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the State Fire Marshall's Office and the County Commissioners.</p>	<p>Year 1 involve interested parties and identify potential options and costs. Seek grants and other funding sources to implement project. Year 2 implement the acquisition of needed equipment.</p>
<p>5.3.h. Seek funding to acquire additional equipment to acquire equipment in the Midvale RFD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire 5,000 gal Tender • Increase water storage capacity • Acquire Light Brush Truck 	<p>Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.</p>	<p>Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the State Fire Marshall's Office and the County Commissioners.</p>	<p>Year 1 involve interested parties and identify potential options and costs. Seek grants and other funding sources to implement project. Year 2 implement the acquisition of needed equipment.</p>

5.6 Regional Land Management Activities

In section 5.3 of this plan, reference was given to the role that forestry, grazing and agriculture have in promoting wildfire mitigation services through active management. Washington County is both a rural county and an urban center (Weiser). It is dominated by wide expanses of rangelands intermixed with communities and rural houses.

Wildfires will continue to ignite and burn fuels and homes depending on the weather conditions and other factors enumerated earlier. However, active land management that modifies fuels, promotes healthy range and forestland conditions, and promotes the use of these natural resources (consumptive and non-consumptive) will insure that these lands have value to society and the local region. We encourage the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Department of Lands, Industrial forestland owners, private forestland owners, and all other landowners in the region to actively manage their Wildland-Urban Interface lands in a manner consistent with the management of reducing fuels and risks in this zone.

The Payette National Forest manages much of the highest risk lands in the region. As shown on the area maps, Appendix I, the USFS manages a significant area of Washington County. Their staff of resource and fire professionals has conducted analysis and developed management projects in the WUI, that are designed to reduce the risk of wildfire and the risk of WUI losses from those fires.

Table 5.6 lists seven WUI treatment projects in Washington County, developed by the Payette National Forest. All of these projects are aligned with the County's WUI Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan's Mission, Vision, and Goals as enumerated in this document. Additional treatments in the County are justified, and will be targeted at amplifying these efforts. For instance, a community defensibility project may augment treatment areas immediately adjacent to one of the Forest Service's treatment areas so that the two projects compliment each other.

Table 5.4. Fuel Treatment Projects Proposed by the Payette National Forest in Washington County.

Project	Summary (Purpose and need) (what risk & mitigation)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres	Planning Timeframe*	Implementation Timeframe*
Sturgill/Benton	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary, adjacent to private lands(Soulen Ranch)	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System Lands adjacent to the Soulen Ranch, approximately 30 miles northwest of Weiser and 20 miles west of Cambridge.	Treat approximately 2,300 acres of National Forest System Lands with prescribed fire to reduce the risk of large wildfires, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	2,300 acres	CE signed in 2001.	Begin implementation in Fall of 2003. Finish implementation in Fall 2003 or 2004.
East Fork Brownlee Natural Fuels	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary, adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System Lands adjacent to the private homes and lands in the vicinity of East Fork Brownlee Cr. and Seid Cr.	Treat approximately 2,000 acres of National Forest System Lands with prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	2,000 acres	CE complete and signed 2002.	Begin implementation in Fall of 2004. Finish implementation in 2006
No Business Natural Fuels	Reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health by changing Condition Classes on Forest land adjacent to OX ranch property.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire destroying the No Business watershed. Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources	National Forest System Lands within the No Business Creek Drainage on the Payette National Forest.	Treat approximately 2,000 acres of National Forest System Lands with prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	2,000 acres	Complete CE by Fall 2004	Begin implementation on 2005. Finish implementation in 2006
Cottonwood/Westfork Natural Fuels	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources.	National Forest System Lands adjacent to the private property and other federally/state owned land south	Treat approximately 2,700 acres of National Forest System Lands with prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	2,700 acres	FEIS signed in 2000.	Begin implementation in Fall of 2004. Finish implementation in Spring/Summ

Table 5.4. Fuel Treatment Projects Proposed by the Payette National Forest in Washington County.

Project	Summary (Purpose and need) (what risk & mitigation)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres	Planning Timeframe *	Implementation Timeframe*
			of the Cecil Andrus Wildlife Management Area.				er of 2006
Mann Creek Natural Fuels	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class in the Mann Creek drainage.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire destroying the Mann Creek watershed. Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources	National Forest System Lands in the Mann Creek drainage which includes Fourth of July Creek, and Porcupine Creek,	Treat approximately 1500 acres of National Forest System Lands with thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1500 acres	EA completed 2003	Begin implementation in Fall 2004. Finish implementation in Fall 2007.
Pole/ Mill Creek Natural Fuels	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary, adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface. Protect transmission lines providing power to southern Idaho.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System Lands adjacent to the private property and other federally/state owned land north of Starkey and Fruitvale.	Treat approximately 2300 acres of National Forest System Lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	3000 acres	Complete CE/EA by Fall 2006	Begin implementation in Fall 2007.
West Pine Restoration	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary, adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System Lands adjacent to the private property and other federally/state owned land north of Starkey and Fruitvale.	Treat approximately 500 acres of National Forest System Lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	500 acres	Complete CE/EA by Fall 2006	Begin implementation in Fall 2007.