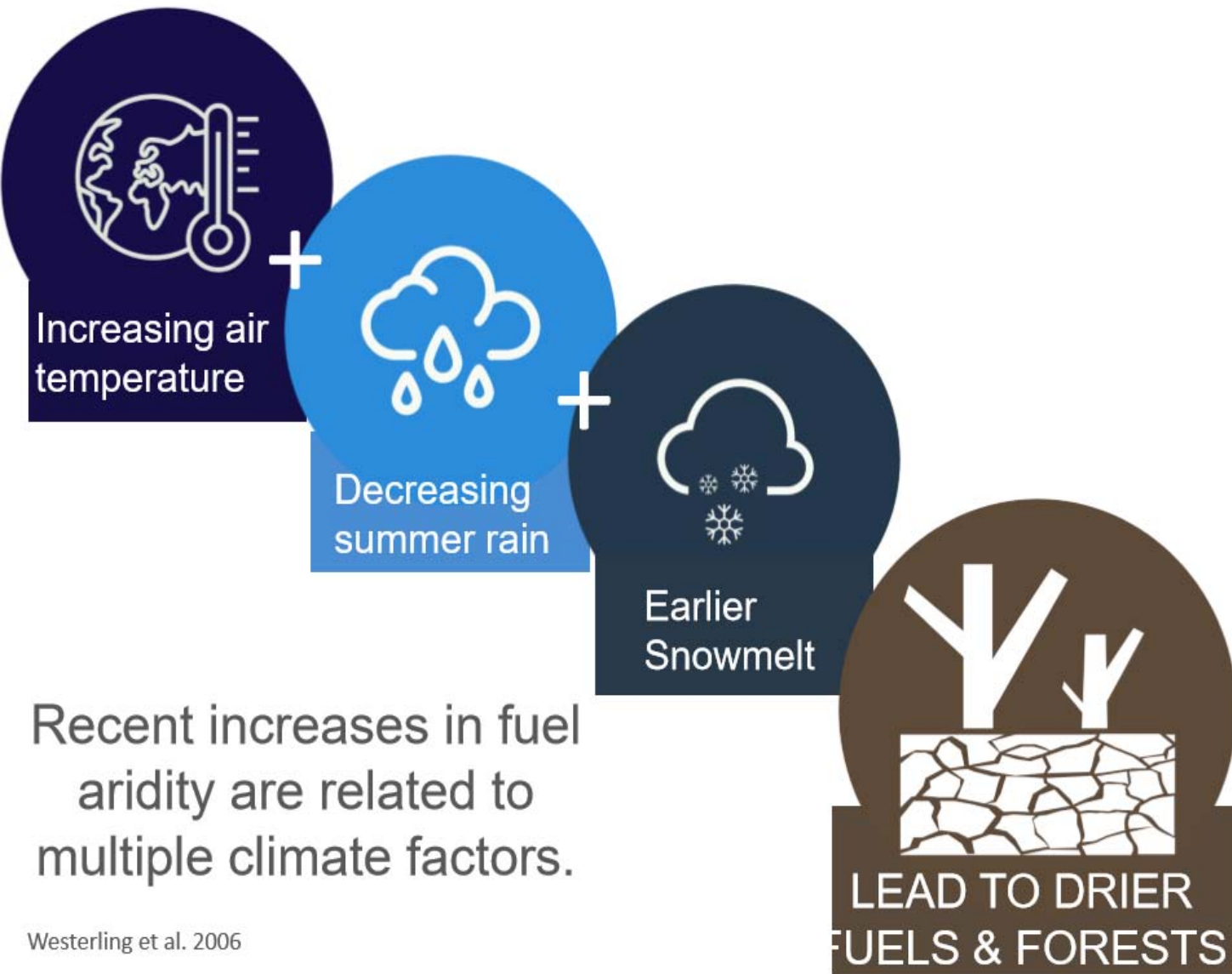


A photograph of a forest scene with several tall, thin trees. The trunks of several trees are wrapped in strings of colorful, multi-colored LED lights (red, green, blue, yellow, and purple). The ground is covered in brown pine needles and some green ferns. In the background, a house with a white railing and a porch is visible on the left side. The overall scene is a mix of natural forest elements and festive lighting.

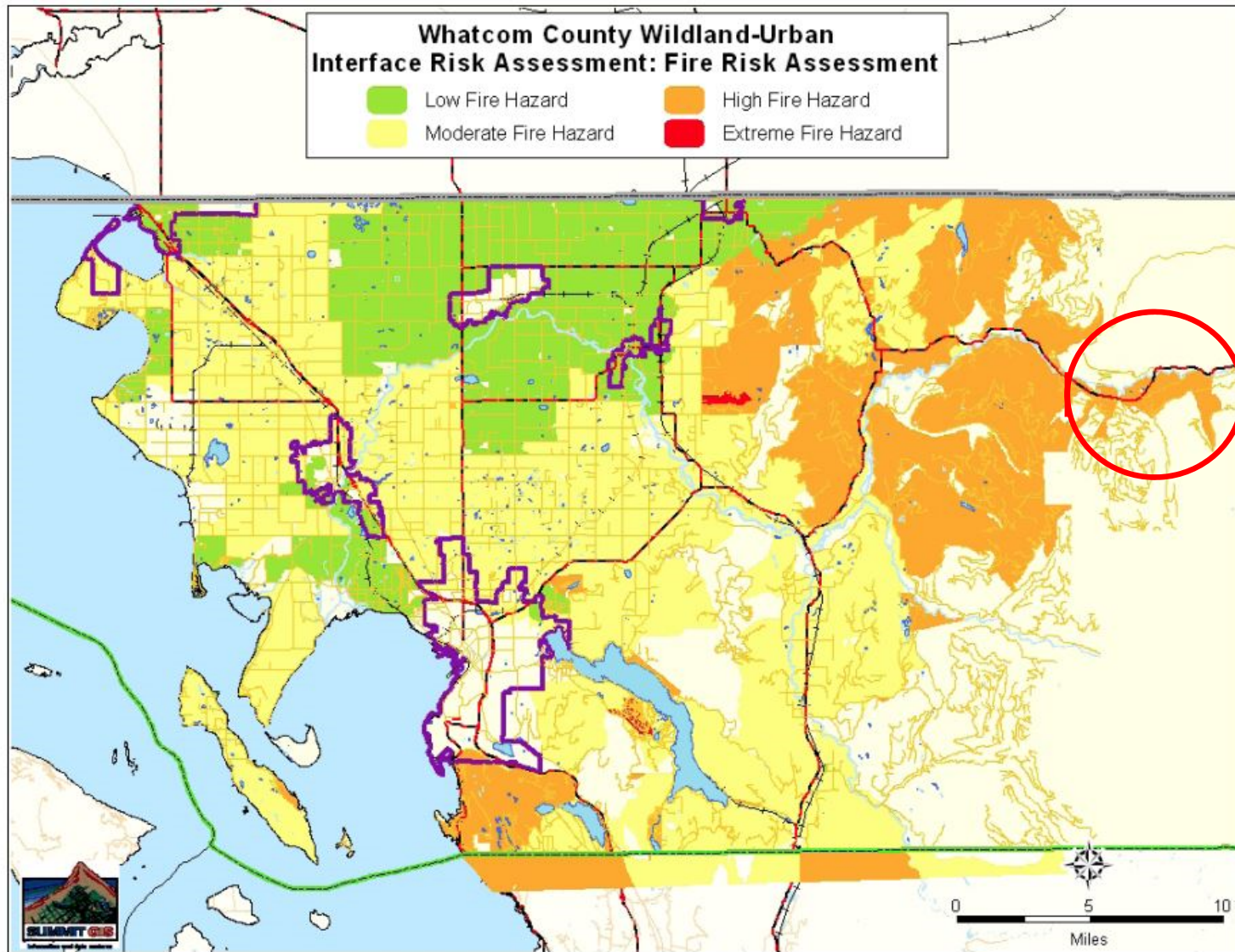
Preparing Your Property for Wildfire

**Mt. Baker Rim Community
August 31, 2020**



Westerling et al. 2006

Climate change is creating conditions that are more conducive to wildfire.



Assessing wildfire risk at the neighborhood level

Assessing wildfire risk at the individual lot level



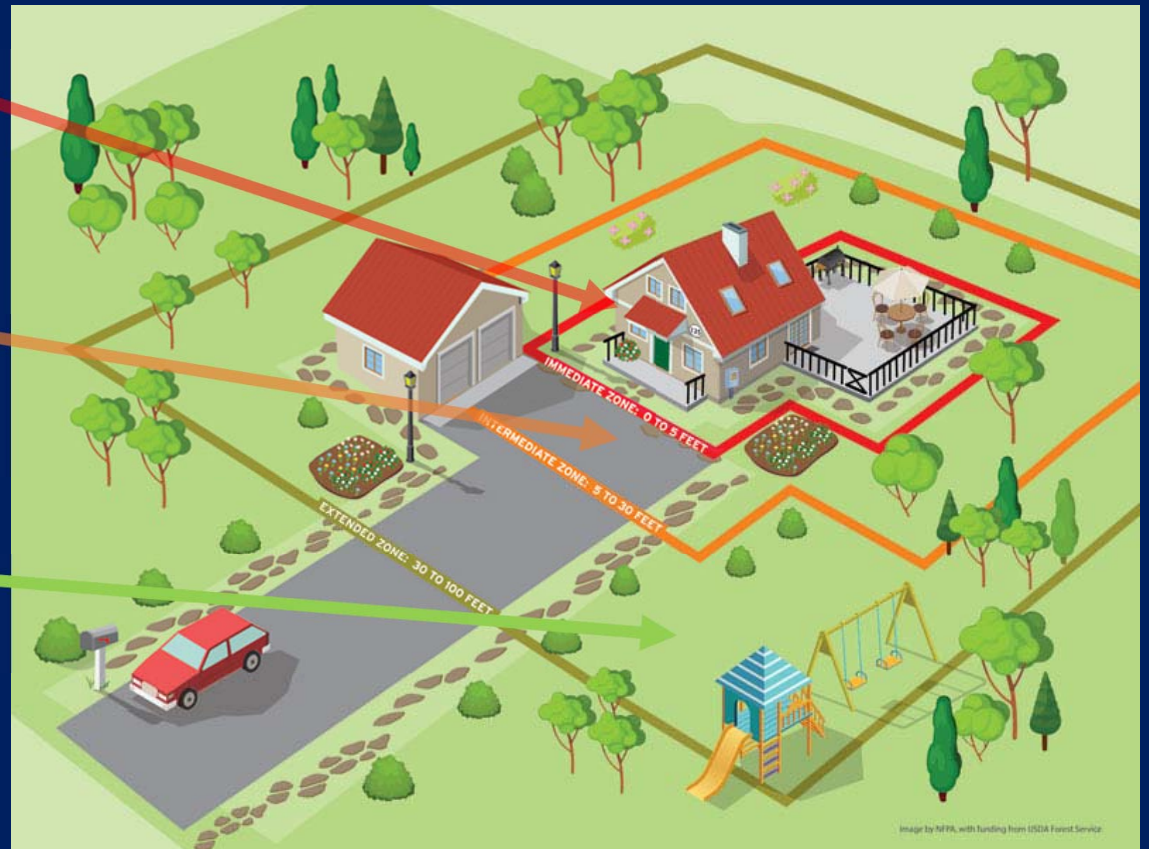
Potential Ignition Sources



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT HOMES
IGNITE DUE TO THE CONDITION OF
THE HOME AND EVERYTHING
AROUND IT, UP TO 200' FROM THE
FOUNDATION

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)

- IMMEDIATE
ZONE – 0 to 5'
- INTERMEDIATE
ZONE – 5' to 30'
- EXTENDED
ZONE – 30' to
100'/200'



Survivable Space / Defensible Space



Construction and
vegetation modifications
that reduce wildfire risk

THE ROOF

Class A fire-rated
roofing materials
provide best
protection



Maintenance is key!

Inspect shingles & roof
tiles; repair and replace
loose or missing

Pay special attention to
heat trap areas like this



Clear flammable debris
from roof & gutters

SIDING & WINDOWS



Fiber-cement, brick, stucco siding are more ignition-resistant than wood or vinyl



Dual-pane, tempered glass windows withstand more heat

VENTS



Clear back flammable materials and install 1/8" metal screening on all vents

ELEVATED DECKS, PORCHES, FENCING



Never store
flammable
material
underneath decks
or porches



Gravel under raised
deck, short grass



A wood fence
attached to the house
can carry fire to the
house.

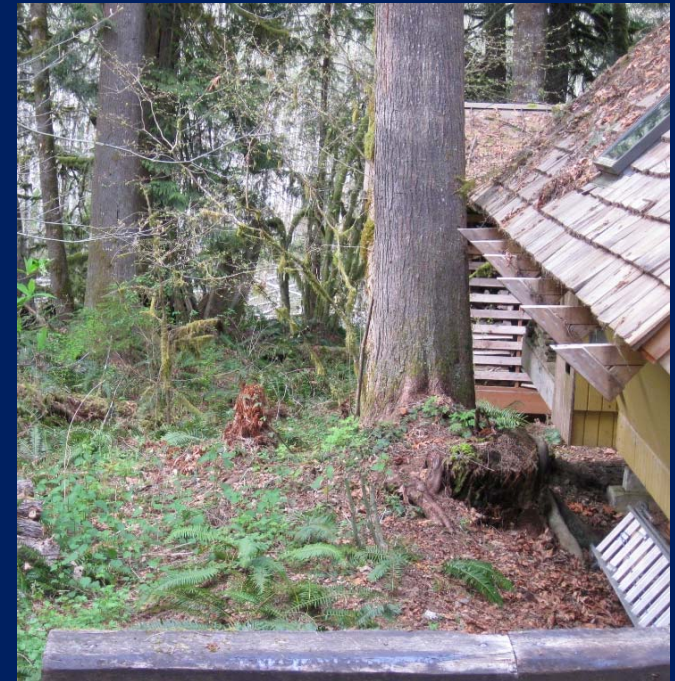
Adjacent to the Home



3-5 feet non-flammable
walkway; gravel or rock



OK? Not OK?



Rake dead leaves
and pine needles
back from house

YAY! MULCH!

- Helps maintain soil moisture
- Moderates soil temperatures
- Discourages weeds
- Prevents erosion & compaction
- Looks pretty

BUT...

**DO NOT PUT
ORGANIC MULCH
WITHIN 5' OF A
STRUCTURE**

MULCHES TO AVOID

- Shredded rubber
- Shredded western red cedar
- Pine needles or sawdust-type mulches



Propane Tanks

Remove vegetation from underneath and around propane tanks

Ensure that they are maintained properly so the venting feature works



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

No
“moonscaping”
required!

vs

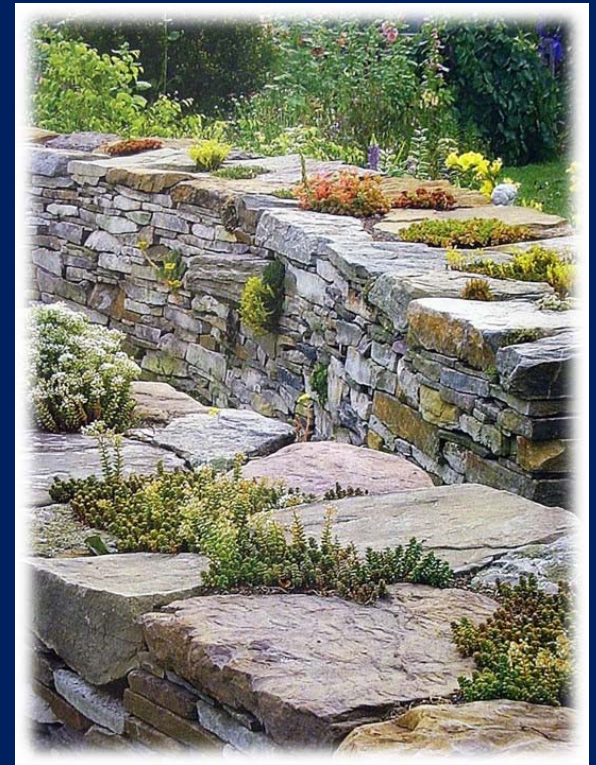


General Landscaping Concepts

1. Create “breaks”



Create fuel breaks with hardscaping like walkways, patios, driveways, and rock features



General Landscaping Concepts

2. Cluster plantings



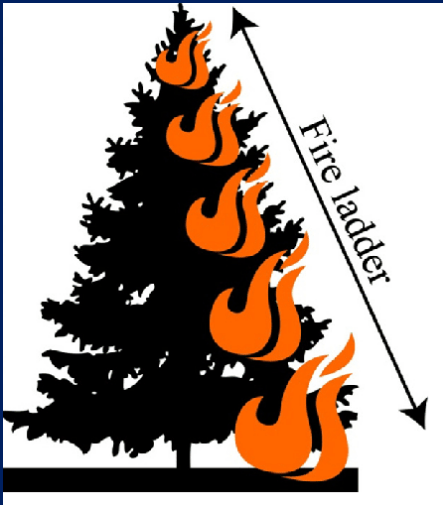
Landscaping areas should
be broken up into clusters



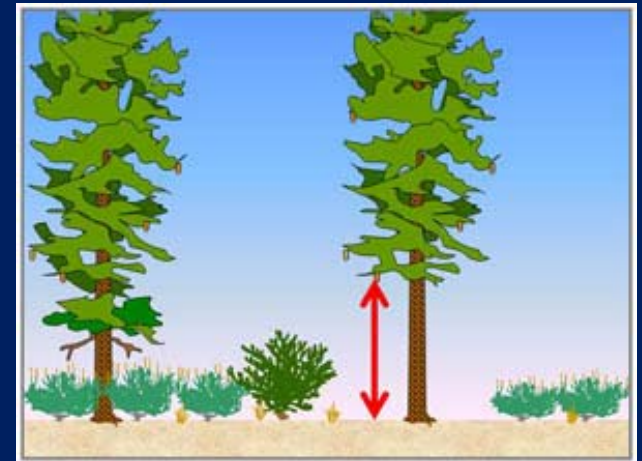
Keep lawn and native grasses
mowed to 4" height

General Landscaping Concepts

3. Create vertical space



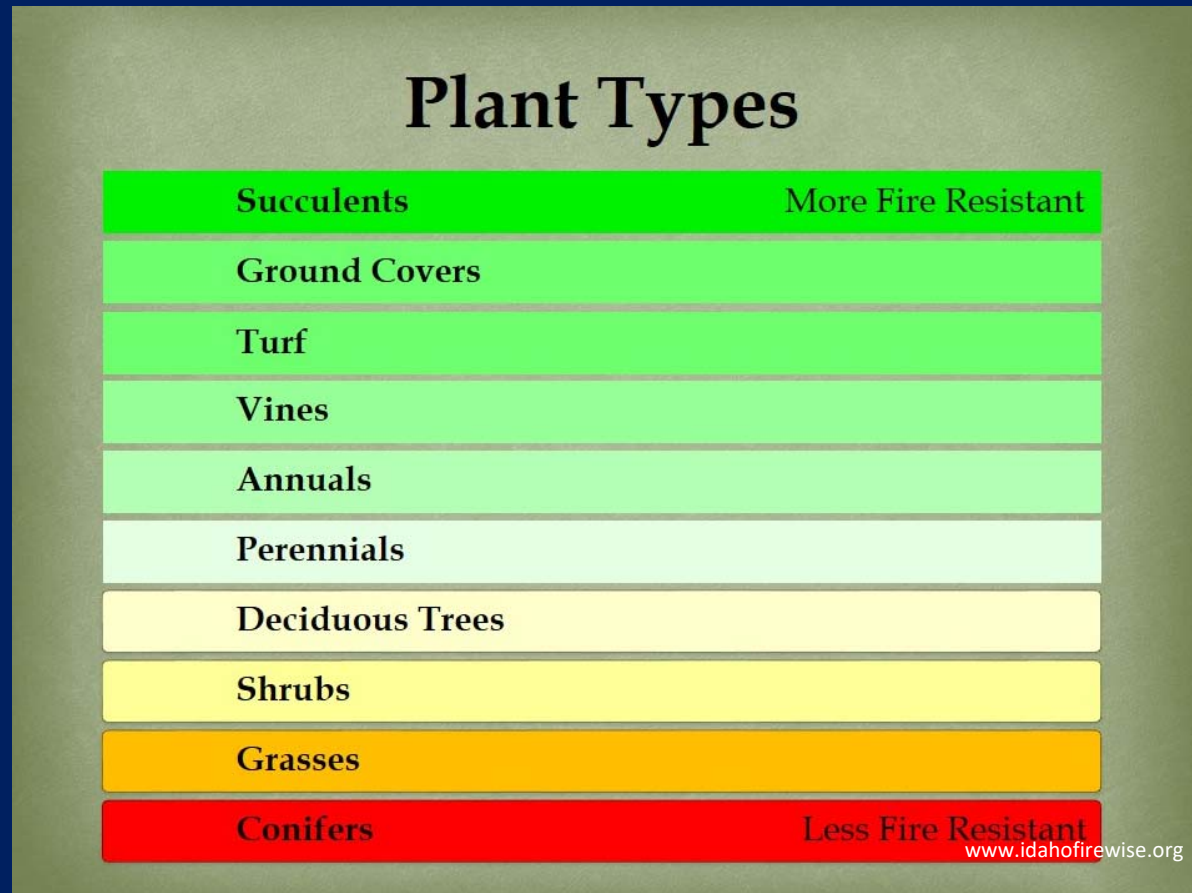
Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a fire on the ground cannot reach the crowns of the tree



Limb trees 6 to 10' from ground. Do not exceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree's overall height.

PLANTS: Fire –resistant and native

- have higher moisture content in their leaves
- have little build-up of dead vegetation
- are more resistant to drought
- low-compact growth form



Plants: Flammable plants

- are water-stressed
- accumulate dry, dead material
- are evergreen
- have loose or papery bark
- have stiff leathery, small, or fine lacy leaves
- high oil or resin content



Natural Area Considerations



Dispose of heavy accumulation of dead plant material – slash or blowdown



Managing/reducing invasive species

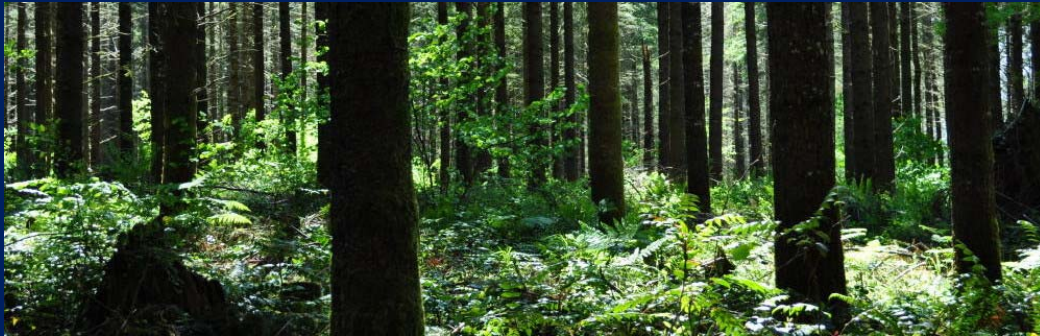


Thinning unhealthy understory trees, removing dead trees



Consider timing of thinning and brush removal – March – August is prime nesting time

Natural Area Considerations



Keep canopy cover to provide shade, reduced soil temperatures and retain soil moisture



Incorporate paths that can be used by firefighters to lay hose

Other preparedness activities

- **Evacuation planning**
- **Neighborhood signage incl. address signs**
- **Mapping of resources**
- **Contact/communication plans**
- **Safety Zone**
- **“Go” bags**
- **Insurance coverage**

<https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>





www.firewise.org

A national recognition program for communities that provides a framework for residents to work together to reduce wildfire risks



- Clark's Point, 2019
- Paradise Lakes Country Club, 2017
- NCI Environmental Learning Center, 2016
- Diablo (Seattle City Light), 2014
- Newhalem (Seattle City Light), 2013
- Lummi Island Scenic Estates, 2003

Chipping Events



*In celebration of
Wildfire Preparedness Day*

**CLARK'S POINT
CHIPPING EVENT**

May 2, 2020



Wildfire Preparedness Education Events



Paradise Lakes Country Club
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day



Demonstration Areas: Fire-resistant landscaping



Your friendly “Firewise” neighbors



RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS & COMMUNITIES

- FREE wildfire risk assessments
- Firewise USA® guidance
- Presentations & outreach events
- Assistance with neighborhood-level risk assessments



www.whatcomcd.org/wildfire

Sunday September 13th

FREE Risk Assessments in Mt. Baker Rim

DNR engine crews will be
in your community to
provide wildfire risk
assessments.

Contact Rosalind Hauser to sign up.
You DO NOT need to be present to
receive a risk assessment.



THANK YOU!

Jenny Coe

Community Wildfire Resilience Coordinator
Skagit & Whatcom Conservation Districts

jcoe@whatcomcd.org
360-526-2381 x106

