

Chapter I

1 Overview of this Plan and its Development

This 2007 Update Addendum to the Wildland-Urban Interface Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan for Clearwater County, Idaho, is the result of analyses, professional cooperation and collaboration, assessments of wildfire risks and other factors considered with the intent to continue reducing the potential for wildfires in Clearwater County, Idaho. This is an annual update; thus, much of the risk analysis and background information was not reviewed. The update planning committee focused on reviewing the recommended action items, fire department information, and completed projects. Agencies and organizations that participated in the planning process included:

- Clearwater County Commissioners and County Departments
- Clearwater – Potlatch Timber Protective Association
- Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
- Evergreen Rural Fire District
- Grangemont Rural Fire District
- Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
- Greer Fire District
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northwest Management, Inc.
- Orofino City and Rural Fire District
- Sunnyside Rural Fire District
- Twin Ridge Rural Fire District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Upper Fords Creek Rural Fire District
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Weippe Rural Volunteer Fire Department

This list above represents groups and individuals that actively participated on the update planning committee. All original members of the WUI Wildfire Mitigation planning committee were contacted to participate.

The 2007 WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update process was completed simultaneously for Idaho, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Latah County. Funding for the five county 2007 Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update was provided through a grant from the Bureau of Land Management and administered by the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council. Northwest Management, Inc. was selected to provide this service to the County. The Project Co-Managers from Northwest Management, Inc. were Mrs. Tera R. King and Mr. Vaiden Bloch.

1.1 Clearwater County Fire Mitigation Planning Effort and Philosophy

The goals of this planning process include the integration of the National Fire Plan, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and the requirements of FEMA for a county-wide Fire Mitigation Plan; a component of the County's All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This effort will utilize the best and most appropriate science from all partners,

the integration of local and regional knowledge about wildfire risks and fire behavior, while meeting the needs of local citizens, the regional economy, the significance of this region to the rest of Idaho and the Inland West.

1.1.1 Mission Statement

To make Clearwater County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the negative effects of wildland fires through the effective administration of wildfire hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient fuels treatments, and a coordinated approach to mitigation policy through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.

1.1.2 Vision Statement

Institutionalize and promote a countywide wildfire hazard mitigation ethic through leadership, professionalism, and excellence, leading the way to a safe, sustainable Clearwater County.

1.1.3 Goals

- To reduce the area of WUI land burned and losses experienced because of wildfires where these fires threaten communities in the wildland-urban interface
- Prioritize the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy
- Educate communities about the unique challenges of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Establish mitigation priorities and develop mitigation strategies in Clearwater County
- Strategically locate and plan fuel reduction projects
- Provide recommendations for alternative treatment methods, such as modifying forest stand density, herbicide treatments, fuel reduction techniques, and disposal or removal of treated slash
- Meet or exceed the requirements of the National Fire Plan and FEMA for a County level Fire Mitigation Plan

Chapter 2

2 Documenting the Update Process

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is required to meet FEMA's DMA 2000 (44CFR§201.4(c)(1) and §201.6(c)(1)). This section includes a description of the update addendum planning process.

2.1 The Planning Team

Planning efforts were led by the Project Co-Directors, Tera R. King, B.S. and Vaiden Bloch, M.S., of Northwest Management, Inc. Leading efforts from Clearwater County, was Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Manager. Mr. Gardner organized meetings, facilitated information management, and coordinated many activities associated with the development of the addendum.

2.2 Public Involvement

The update addendum planning committee felt it was important to inform the public of the update planning process as well as provide an opportunity for public comment.

2.2.1 News Releases

As part of the five county 2007 WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update process, news releases were submitted to numerous local newspapers including Clearwater Progress, Lewiston Tribune, Idaho County Free Press, Moscow Daily News, Central Idaho Post, Salmon River Current, Clearwater Tribune, and the Latah Eagle.

Figure 2.1. May 14, 2007 Media Release.

Central Idaho Counties to Update Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans

The local county commissioners and the Clearwater RC&D have reconvened the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan committees to update the existing Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans for each of Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater, and Idaho Counties. The respective county planning committees will be re-evaluating the prioritized mitigation project lists to add new projects and update those that have been completed or are ongoing. The committees will also be working on updating mapping components and adding wildfire risk assessments for new housing developments. Rural and wildland fire districts, land managers, elected officials, agency representatives, and others are represented on the local planning committees for this project. Northwest Management, Inc., a natural resource consulting firm, will be assisting the five county area with the update process.

Once the revised sections are completed, the planning teams will conduct public review periods during which the draft addendums will be available throughout each county for review and comment. A notice on the locations of these drafts will be posted in local newspapers.

The existing Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans for all Idaho counties can be found at the Idaho Department of Lands website (www.idl.idaho.gov/nat_fire_plan/county_wui_plans/index.htm). For more information on the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan update process call Tera King at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488 or contact the county representatives listed below.

Idaho County Jim Davis, County Wildfire Mitigation Director 208-983-3074	Latah County Alan Martinson, Disaster Services 208-882-8580
Lewis County Dave Hasz, Disaster and Emergency Services 208-937-2380	
Clearwater County Don Gardner, Disaster and Emergency Services 208-476-4064	Nez Perce County Ron Hall, Nez Perce County Fire Chief 208-298-0165

2.3 Committee Meetings

Three committee meetings were held during the update process.

2.3.1 May 10th, 2007 – Orofino Fire Station

The 14 attendees at the first update planning committee meeting discussed the overall goal and planning process of the update project as well as began identifying action items and projects that had been completed, were ongoing, or had not yet begun. Several members of the committee agreed to provide updated information on several sections of the document. Northwest Management, Inc. will be updating the Wildland Urban Interface map; however, none of the other original maps will be updated at this time.

2.3.2 June 19th, 2007 – Orofino Fire Station

The 16 attendees at the second update planning committee meeting reviewed the draft addendum for inclusion of all necessary updated elements in preparation for sending the draft document out for public review. It was noted that several of the fire departments/agencies had not sent in their edits and; thus, were not included in the addendum. Tera and several other

members of the committee will work to contact the outstanding departments/agencies as soon as possible. The public review process is set to begin on July 6th and run until July 20th. . Kristen Sanders with the BLM also gave a brief presentation on the interagency Prevention Coop being organized by Susan Jenkins, Salmon River Ranger District.