

## Chapter 2

### 2 Documenting the Planning 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 planning process used to develop this plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how all of the involved agencies participated.

#### 2.1 Description of the Planning Process

The Asotin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving all of the organizations and agencies detailed in Chapter 1 of this document. The planning process included five distinct phases which were in some cases sequential (step 1 then step 2) and in some cases intermixed (step 4 completed throughout the process):

1. **Collection of Data** about the extent and periodicity of hazards in and around Asotin County. This included an area encompassing Asotin, Garfield, and Columbia Counties to ensure a robust dataset for making inferences about hazards in Asotin County specifically.
2. **Field Observations and Estimations** about risks, juxtaposition of structures and infrastructure to risk areas, access, and potential treatments.
3. **Mapping** of data relevant to pre-disaster mitigation control and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, risk assessments, and related data.
4. **Facilitation of Public Involvement** from the formation of the planning committee, to a public mail survey, news releases, public meetings, public review of draft documents, and acknowledgement of the final plan by the signatory representatives.
5. **Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, providing ample review and integration of committee and public input, followed by signing of the final document.

#### 2.2 The Planning Team

Leading planning efforts from Asotin County as project co-coordinators was Megan Stewart, Asotin County Conservation District, Jay Holzmilller, Anatone resident, and Lisa Naylor, Blue Mountain RC&D. Northwest Management Project Co-Managers were Tera R. King, B.S. and Vaiden Bloch M.S. Mrs. King received a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource management from the University of Idaho and Mr. Bloch has earned a Master of Science degree in forest products and a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management from the University of Idaho.

These individuals led a team of resource professionals that included Asotin County government, incorporated city officials, fire protection districts, law enforcement, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Districts, the US Forest Service, fire mitigation specialists, resource management professionals, local residents, and others.

The planning team met with many residents of the County during the inspections of communities, infrastructure, and hazard abatement assessments. This methodology, when coupled with the other approaches in this process, worked adequately to integrate a wide spectrum of observations and interpretations about the project.

The planning philosophy employed in this project included the open and free sharing of information with interested parties. Information from federal and state agencies was integrated into the database of knowledge used in this project. Meetings with the committee were held throughout the planning process to facilitate a sharing of information between cooperators.

When the public meetings were held, many of the committee members were in attendance and shared their support and experiences with the planning process and their interpretations of the results.

## **2.2.1 Multi-Jurisdictional Participation**

CFR requirement §201.6(a)(3) calls for multi-jurisdictional planning in the development of Hazard Mitigation Plans which impact multiple jurisdictions. This Community Wildfire Protection Plan is applicable to the following jurisdictions:

- Asotin County, Washington
- City of Asotin
- City of Clarkston

These jurisdictions were represented on the planning committee, in public meetings, and participated in the development of hazard profiles, risk assessments, and mitigation measures. The monthly planning committee meetings were the primary venue for authenticating the planning record. However, additional input was gathered from each jurisdiction in a combination of the following ways:

- Planning committee leadership visits to scheduled municipality public meetings (e.g., county commissioner meetings, city hall meetings) where planning updates were provided and information was exchanged.
- One-on-one visits between the planning committee leadership and the representatives of the municipalities (e.g., meetings with county commissioners, city, fire districts, or communities).
- Special meetings at each jurisdiction by the planning committee leadership requested by the municipality involving elected officials (mayor and County Commissioners), appointed officials (e.g., County Assessor, Sheriff, City Police), municipality employees, local volunteers (e.g., fire district volunteers), business community representatives, and local citizenry.
- Written correspondence was provided monthly between the planning committee leadership and each municipality updating the cooperators in the planning process, making requests for information, and facilitating feedback.

Planning committee leadership (referenced above) included: Commissioner Don Brown, Megan Stewart, Jay Holzmilller, Lisa Naylor, and Tera King and Vaiden Bloch of Northwest Management, Inc.

Like other rural areas of Washington and the USA, Asotin County's human resources have many demands put on them in terms of time and availability. Several of the elected officials (county commissioners and city mayors) do not serve in a full-time capacity; some of them have other employment and serve the community through a convention of community service. Recognizing this, many of the jurisdictions decided to identify a representative to cooperate on the planning committee and then report back to the remainder of their organization on the process and serve as a conduit between the planning committee and the jurisdiction. In the case of the Asotin County Commissioners, Commissioner Brown was a regular attendee of the

planning committee meetings and reported to the Board on the progress of the Asotin County CWPP.

### 2.3 Planning Committee Meetings

The following list of people who participated in the planning committee meetings, volunteered time, or responded to elements of the Asotin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan’s preparation.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
• Barb Appleford .....	Asotin County resident
• Bill Schlosser.....	Northwest Management, Inc.
• Bob Dice.....	Washington Dept Fish and Wildlife
• Brit Ausman.....	Asotin County resident
• Butch Aiken.....	Asotin County Disaster & Emergency Management
• Casey Hagenah .....	Asotin County resident
• Corinne Thompson.....	Asotin County resident
• Dan Schlee.....	Asotin County resident
• Dan Sokdosk.....	Asotin County resident
• Dave Fritts.....	Bennett Lumber
• Dave Weissenfels .....	Asotin Fire Chief
• David Browne.....	Asotin County resident
• Dick Allen.....	Asotin County resident
• Don Brown .....	Asotin County Commissioner
• Gail Hagenah .....	Asotin County resident
• Harold Thompson.....	Asotin County resident
• Jason Schlee.....	Asotin County resident
• Jay Holzmilller.....	Asotin County resident
• Jenny Scott .....	Asotin County resident
• Jerry Hendrickson .....	Asotin County resident
• Joe Weeks .....	Washington Dept of Natural Resources
• Jynelle Mellen .....	Asotin County resident
• Keith Ausman.....	Asotin County resident
• Ken Bancroft .....	Asotin County Sheriff
• Lisa Naylor .....	Blue Mountain RC&D
• Megan Stewart.....	Conservation District
• Mike Butler .....	Corps of Engineers
• Mike Haberman.....	Asotin County resident
• Mike Hohman .....	Asotin County Fire District #1
• Noel Hardin .....	Fire District #1
• Rod Hostetler .....	Asotin County resident
• Rod Marshal.....	Asotin County Search and Rescue
• Shaun Bristol.....	Washington Parks and Recreation
• Stan Vannoy.....	Clearwater Power
• Steve Carlson.....	Pomeroy Ranger District
• Steve Cooper .....	Clarkston Mayor’s Representative
• Susie Appleford.....	Asotin County resident
• Tara Hanger .....	Pomeroy Ranger District
• Tera King.....	Northwest Management, Inc.

- Tom Petty .....Asotin County resident
- Vaiden Bloch .....Northwest Management, Inc.

**2.3.1.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

The Planning committee began meeting in early 2006 to lay the ground work for the Asotin County CWPP. Northwest Management, Inc. was hired and began attending regular planning committee meetings in January of 2007.

**2.3.1.1.1 March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Aquatic Center**

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Tera called the meeting to order by asking for a round table introduction of the committee members. Lisa kicked off the meeting by giving some background on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project up to this point.

Agenda Item #2 – Overview of Process:

Joe Weeks with the Washington Department of Natural Resources gave a very helpful explanation of where and why Community Wildfire Protection Plans (both local and county-wide) originated. He also explained how having a CWPP in place can help a community prepare and respond to a wildfire situation.

In order to give the committee an overview of the whole planning process and make sure everyone understood the purpose of the CWPP, Northwest Management (NMI) prepared a PowerPoint presentation that went through each of the steps as well as introduced the company to the committee members. However, due to a projector malfunction, the presentation was given with no visual aids. Several of the discussion points in the presentation sparked comments and questions from the committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Discuss Mission, Vision, and Goals Statements:

Tera handed out a rough draft of potential mission, vision, and goals statements that will help guide the planning process. She noted that these were just suggestions and asked the committee to review the statements and provide comments to NMI by the next committee meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Public Survey and Press Release:

Rough drafts of the public survey were handed out. Vaiden and Tera explained that the survey provided the committee with valuable insights on how residents of Asotin County view the fire risk as well as provides some awareness information. The committee decided to review the survey on their own and provide edits to Tera by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She will make the corrections and bring the revised version as well as the potential mailing list to the next committee meeting. Vaiden will work with the Assessor’s office to get the necessary data to conduct the surveys. It was noted that the survey would reach a better sampling of the County if the cities were excluded.

Agenda Item #5 – Resource and Capability Questionnaire:

Tera handed out the Resources and Capabilities questionnaire pointing out that this was directed at the fire district and the agencies with wildfire responsibility. The purpose of these questionnaires is not only to provide a summary of the district’s capabilities, interagency agreements, and equipment, but also to identify problem areas and current needs. Tera asked

that these surveys be filled out by fire departments as well as agencies with fire protection responsibilities by the next committee meeting.

There was a short discussion on the need for identification and mapping of existing water resources across the County. This should be recognized as an action item in the Plan. It was also noted that there are large portions of populated areas in Asotin County that are currently not within a Fire District's protection area, specifically the Anatone area. Formation of a new fire protection district(s) or annexation into current district(s) should be recognized and discussed at subsequent committee meetings. NMI will be mapping the current fire district boundaries to help with the development of this recommendation.

#### Agenda Item #6 – Community Risk Assessments:

The purpose of the community risk assessments is to provide a narrative of the fire risk within the county in addition to the mapping and modeling analyses. NMI staff will be in Asotin County in the following weeks doing risk evaluations to be presented as rough drafts at the next committee meeting. Several members of the committee offered tours of their area of expertise.

The committee requested that the DNR provide their after-action review summaries to help identify some of the problems experienced on the School Fire and Columbia Complex. This may help shape the development of solutions in Asotin County prior to an incident.

Improving communications across the county as well as between agencies, departments, landowners, etc. needs to be addressed in Asotin County and the Tri-County area.

#### Agenda Item #7 – Past, Ongoing, or Proposed Mitigation Activities:

Tera pointed out that it was important to discuss mitigation activities or programs already occurring in the County in the CWPP. Any information the committee has regarding recently past, ongoing, or planned mitigation projects (educational, fuels reduction, policy, existing CWPPs, etc) needs to be sent to NMI.

#### Agenda Item #8 – Timeline:

Tera discussed the tentative timeline for completion handed out with the agenda. Although the meeting dates may not be exact, this gives a month-by-month run down of tasks including an October adoption of the plan. The public meetings are tentatively scheduled for the end of May; however, if there are other events that could facilitate some public involvement in the project, these should also be considered. The Asotin County Fair is April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. This would be a good opportunity to provide some public involvement and awareness of the CWPP planning process. Megan agreed to send NMI contact information for setting up a booth at the Fair.

#### Agenda Item #9 – Task List and Assignments:

*\*\*Information can be sent to Tera King at [king@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:king@consulting-foresters.com) .\*\*\**

1. Send NMI info on existing mitigation programs, plans, etc – Committee
2. Review/send edits on Mission, Vision, and Goals Statements by next meeting – Committee
3. Review public survey and send edits to NMI by April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Committee
4. Conduct field community assessments by next meeting – NMI
5. Send committee all review materials electronically – Tera
6. Send Tera Asotin County Fair booth contact info – Megan
7. Set up CWPP booth at the Asotin County Fair - NMI
8. Work with Assessor's office to get cadastral data – Vaiden
9. Obtain copies of DNR's after action reviews of the School Fire and Columbia Complex - Joe

10. Send NMI completed Resources and Capabilities surveys by next meeting – Fire Depts & Agencies

11. Send NMI organization logos by the next meeting - Committee

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment:

Tera adjourned the meeting at approximately 1830 hours.

Next Meeting: May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Asotin County Aquatic Center (same location)

**2.3.1.1.2 May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Aquatic Center**

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Bill kicked off the meeting by welcoming everybody to the table and pointing out the sign in sheet as well as the handouts available.

Agenda Item #2 – Review Mission Statement and Vision Statement:

Bill briefly revisited the Mission, Vision, and Goals statements noting that he hadn't received any edits so far. Bill also reiterated the purpose of the CWPP as well as how it will be arranged and what the potential benefits will be to the County.

Agenda Item #3 – Review of Risk Mapping in Tri-County Area:

NMI has completed the initial risk modeling maps and basic GIS layers (roads, streams, landownership, etc.). Bill gave an in-depth explanation of what each map represented and how it could be used by the committee. Included in the map set was a preliminary structure density model that other county CWPP committees have adopted as their Wildland Urban Interface. Bill explained the usefulness of this type of mapping, particularly that it was an unbiased method of determining the WUI. These maps will be discussed in greater detail at subsequent meetings; however, Bill did ask that the committee take a few moments to look at the maps before they left.

During the mapping discussion, it was noted that the Fire Prone Landscapes map showed agricultural lands in the county as not having as much potential ignition risk as forest areas. The committee felt that CRP and other no-till farming practices increased the fire risk and should be mapped as such. Emily Ruchert in Pomeroy is making a request for map layers of all the CRP fields on behalf of the 3 County area from the Farm Services Agency. Chief Hardin can also put together some ignition and extent data for the private lands, which will help show the potential risk in the agricultural/pastureland areas. Since it would be impossible to accurately map chem. fallow fields in this type of planning process, a discussion on the increased fire risk resulting from this type of farming practice should be included in the document.

Stan Vannoy should have GIS layers of the power lines and other significant infrastructure. John Guillotte with Public Works should have the fire district boundary layers and updated road layer.

Agenda Item #4 – Public Involvement:

NMI is still working on getting the cadastral data from the Assessor's Office to be used in the public mail survey. This will be completed within the next two weeks. The survey will be sent to a sample of 300 with a limit of 75 going to Clarkston residents.

The public meetings were scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a noon meeting at the Asotin County Fairgrounds, Bennett Building and an evening (6:30 pm) meeting at the Anatone Community Center. NMI will produce contact the venues and produce announcement flyers and a press release.

#### Agenda Item #5 – Resources and Capabilities:

Bill noted that NMI needs the Resources and Capabilities summaries from each fire department and agency. NMI has received the City of Asotin Fire Department's so far. We also need to remind Bob Dice to provide a summary for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### Agenda Item #6 – Community Risk Assessments:

The purpose of the community risk assessments is to provide a narrative of the fire risk within the county in addition to the mapping and modeling analyses. Bill spent several days touring the County during April to produce the written community risk assessments included in the handouts. This documentation will make up a significant portion of the final CWPP. He asked that the committee review his write-ups for both accuracy of content and format preferences and provide comments by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Either the Baker City or Spokane BLM District should have additional statistics on wildfire extents and ignition profiles for the 3 County area. Chief Hardin agreed to write a few personal narratives of some of the significant fires.

Water availability in the Anatone area is very limited. The committee discussed including an action item in the document to map all available water sources in the county as well as add some additional sources such as drafting sites or dry hydrants to assist firefighters.

Building codes related to fire safety and defensibility throughout the county should also be discussed as a potential action item.

#### Agenda Item #7 – Past, Ongoing, or Proposed Mitigation Activities:

Bill reiterated the need to discuss mitigation activities or programs already occurring in the County in the CWPP. Any information the committee has regarding recently past, ongoing, or planned mitigation projects (educational, fuels reduction, policy, existing CWPPs, etc) needs to be sent to NMI. Tara Hanger provided information on the Forest Service's fuel treatment projects.

#### Agenda Item #8 – Task List and Assignments:

*\*\*Information can be sent to Tera King at [king@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:king@consulting-foresters.com) . \*\*\**

1. Send NMI info on existing mitigation programs, plans, etc – Committee
2. Review/send edits on Mission, Vision, and Goals Statements by next meeting – Committee
3. Schedule public meeting and contact potential venues – NMI
4. Review Community Assessment packet and provide edits by May 31<sup>st</sup> – Committee
5. Develop public meeting flyer – NMI
6. Provide NMI with CRP map layers from FSA – Emily Ruchert
7. Compile fire history data - Chief Hardin and NMI
8. Send NMI completed Resources and Capabilities surveys by next meeting – Fire Depts & Agencies
9. Send NMI organization logos by the next meeting - Committee

#### Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.

Next Meeting: June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Asotin County Aquatic Center at 5 pm (same location)

### **2.3.1.1.3 June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Aquatic Center**

#### Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Tera kicked off the meeting by welcoming everybody to the table and pointing out the sign in sheet as well as the handouts were available at the front.

#### Agenda Item #2 – Public Involvement:

Tera went over the agenda for the public meetings, which will occur on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. She reiterated the importance of the committee to be at the public meetings to show support on the important issues in the county. Tera asked for any input on the appearance of the flyer, which will be displayed at public venues all over the county. The committee liked the appearance and wanted to start getting it displayed as soon as possible. Suggestions were given for places the flyers could be placed such as the Fairgrounds, local post offices, local bars, and grocery stores. Lisa had recently sent out a press release announcing the meeting to the local papers. It was also suggested that NMI send the information to KLEW Channel 3 TV and to the local radio stations.

NMI sent the first in a series of three mailings of the public survey to 360 Asotin County homeowners last week.

#### Agenda Item #3 – Community Risk Assessments:

Tera asked if there was any edits to the Chapter 4 material handed out at the previous meeting. Megan and Keith Ausman provided new edits that will be corrected. Tera commented on the fact that she would like to have Chapter 4 complete by the following meeting, so if there were any more corrections to please send them to NMI as soon as possible.

#### Agenda Item #4 – Chapter 1 Review:

Tera handed out a draft of Chapter 1 – Plan Introduction. She explained that this chapter serves as an introduction to the document. Much of the information presented outlines the different planning guidelines rather than specific information about Asotin County. Tera asked the committee to review the chapter for any edits needed and to send them to NMI before the next meeting.

Tera noted that if anyone would like their agency/organization logo(s) on the document acknowledgments page to please send them to NMI right away. The logos will be placed in the Acknowledges page of chapter 1, on committee maps, and on the free maps that are given to people who respond to the survey.

Tera asked the committee if Asotin County had a Hazard Mitigation Plan and/or a County Comprehensive Plan and if she could get copies of them. Lisa was given both documents and will be able to provide them to Tera. NMI will review these additional documents in order to insure that the CWPP does not make any recommendations that conflict with County policies.

#### Agenda Item #5 – GIS Data:

Tera commented that NMI has been receiving GIS data from the county, but there are still some needed corrections between Bennett Lumber and Washington DNR land. This was corrected by Dave Fritts and Megan Stewart at the meeting.

Emily Ruchert in Pomeroy was able to get CRP data for all three counties. NMI will incorporate this data into the maps presented at the public meetings.

#### Agenda Item #6 – Working Groups:

At the end of the meeting, the committee broke into two groups around a map to begin outlining potential project/treatment areas and areas of high risk. Numerous different projects were identified, many with specific recommendations for treatment. NMI will work on digitizing these boundaries to be displayed at the public meeting and in the draft document.

Agenda Item #7 – Open Discussion:

There was a discussion on the enforcement of Washington road standards by the county. It was suggested to include a recommendation for enforcement of already in place fire codes on new roads by the county into the CWPP.

Agenda Item #8 – Task List and Assignments:

*\*\*Information can be sent to Tera King at [king@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:king@consulting-foresters.com) .\*\*\**

1. Send NMI info on existing mitigation programs, plans, etc – Committee
2. Review/send edits on Chapter 1 - Plan Introduction by July 12th – Committee
3. Continue review of Chapter 4 and send edits by July 12th – Committee
4. Contact Lisa for access to other county planning documents – NMI
5. Revise maps for public meeting – NMI
6. Compile fire history data - Chief Hardin and NMI
7. Send NMI completed Resources and Capabilities surveys by next meeting – Fire Depts & Agencies
8. Send NMI organization logos by the next meeting - Committee

Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm. Next Meeting: July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fire District Station at 5 pm (2314 Appleside – across from Grumpy's)

**2.3.1.1.4 July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Fire District #1 Station**

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Tera kicked off the meeting by welcoming everybody to the table and passing around the draft as well as the sign in sheet.

Agenda Item #2 – Housekeeping Items:

Vaiden gave a quick review of the recent Rockpile Creek Fire and subsequent public meeting in Asotin County. He noted that many of the concerns discussed at the meeting were or needed to be included in the CWPP. Many of the issues discussed at the meeting were similar to the issues faced on both the School Fire and the Columbia Complex in 2005 and 2006, respectively. This just reiterates the need for improvement.

Tera also noted that the last mailing of the public survey had been sent. There has been an excellent response from Asotin County residents with nearly 40% returned already.

Due to the interest this season's fires have generated, the committee felt that one additional public meeting would be beneficial. This meeting will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bennett Building at 7 pm. The committee will help disseminate information and NMI will make sure the announcement is printed in the Lewiston Tribune.

Agenda Item #3 – Draft Review:

Tera handed out the first complete draft of the CWPP. Several of the sections have already been reviewed by the committee. Tera went through each chapter explaining some of the content and formatting. There were in depth discussions on several of the items in the "County

Issues” section, which resulted in changes to the draft. The committee made numerous other corrections as they went, but Tera asked the committee to provide additional comments on the draft by the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Maps:

NMI did not bring any new wall maps; however, the most recent versions of the treatment map and the CRP acres were included in the agenda packet. All of the maps will be included in the Appendices.

Agenda Item #5 – Schedule:

July – September: Committee Review Process

September – October: Public Review

October – November: Adoption

Agenda Item #6 – Task List and Assignments:

*\*\*Information can be sent to Tera King at [king@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:king@consulting-foresters.com) .\*\*\**

1. Send NMI info on existing mitigation programs, plans, etc – Committee
2. Complete missing/edited sections of draft CWPP - NMI
3. Review/send edits on Draft CWPP by next meeting – Committee

Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.

Next Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fire District Station at 5 pm  
2314 Appleside – across from Grumpy’s

**2.3.1.1.5 August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Fire District #1 Station**

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Tera kicked off the meeting by welcoming everybody to the table and passing around the updated draft documents as well as the sign in sheet.

Agenda Item #2 – Housekeeping Items:

Tera gave a brief overview regarding the July 24<sup>th</sup> public meeting, which drew in approximately 22 attendees. Several members of the committee were in attendance at the public meeting resulting in a very productive discussion of the issues as well as potential mitigation actions.

The last mailing of the survey has been completed and as of August 15<sup>th</sup>, Asotin County has a 42% response rate. Tera expects that a few more will trickle in. The results of the survey will be summarized for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #3 – Appendices Review:

Tera handed out copies of the draft Appendices, which includes all of the maps, surveys, prioritization data, and glossary of terms as well as information on potential funding sources. Most of the material in the Appendices has been reviewed by the committee already or is a supplement to information presented in the main document. Tera asked that the committee review the material for accuracy and send any edits to her by the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Draft Review:

Rather than print the entire draft again, Tera handed out packets of only the information that had changed since the July meeting. She went through each section noting the new material as well

as what was still missing. So far, she has not received many edits to the original draft. She asked that the committee please begin sending edits as the data gathering process is almost complete. The committee should begin thinking about finalizing the draft in order to begin the public review process. This will be the focus of the September meeting.

#### Agenda Item #5 – Prioritization Process:

Using the prioritization scheme outlined in Chapter 5 of the draft, Tera has begun to prioritize the action items listed in the Chapter 5 tables. Tera went over the information used in the prioritization process and asked if the committee had any revisions on the cost figures or any of the other criteria scores. The committee approved the use of this prioritization scheme; therefore, Tera will work on prioritizing the specific committee projects for the next meeting.

#### Agenda Item #6 – Task List and Assignments:

*\*\*Information can be sent to Tera King at [king@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:king@consulting-foresters.com) .\*\*\**

1. Send NMI edits on any of the material handed out so far – Committee
2. Complete missing/edited sections of draft CWPP - NMI

#### Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.

Next Meeting: September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Fire District Station at 5 pm  
2314 Appleside – across from Grumpy’s

### **2.3.1.1.6 September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Asotin County Fire District #1 Station**

#### Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order:

Tera kicked off the meeting by welcoming everybody to the table and passing around the updated draft documents as well as the sign in sheet.

#### Agenda Item #2 – Public Draft Review:

The committee went through each new section of the draft including the public survey results, project tables, and the prioritization tables. There were several discussions regarding the accuracy of statements and usefulness of the information. The committee made numerous minor changes that will help clarify the information presented.

#### Agenda Item #3 – Public Review Phase:

Tera explained the public review process discussing potential dates as well as the best local venues to have the documents available. The following schedule was determined:

September 28<sup>th</sup> – NMI to post revised documents on website for final committee review

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Final deadline for committee edits before public review.

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Public review phase begins (docs are available at venues & press releases posted).

November 9<sup>th</sup> – End public review phase

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Tentative committee meeting to discuss public comments, if necessary.

The documents will be available at the Asotin Fire District #1 station, the Pautler Senior Center, the Anatone post office, the Conservation District office, the Courthouse, the Courthouse Annex, Asotin City Hall, Clarkston City Hall, and the County Library. Tera will send the committee a draft press release on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Agenda Item #4 – Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.  
Next Meeting: TBA following public review

## **2.4 Public Involvement**

Public involvement in this plan was made a priority from the inception of the project. There were a number of ways that public involvement was sought and facilitated. In some cases this led to members of the public providing information and seeking an active role in protecting their own homes and businesses, while in other cases it led to the public becoming more aware of the process without becoming directly involved in the planning.

### **2.4.1 News Releases**

Under the auspices of the Asotin County planning committee, news releases were submitted to local newspapers and informative flyers were also distributed around town and to local offices within the communities.

**Figure 2.1 Lewiston Morning Tribune article published on July 10, 2007.**

**Meeting tonight will focus on rural firefighting strategies**

State land management and firefighting officials will conduct a meeting in conjunction with Asotin County tonight to discuss firefighting strategies in remote areas of the county.

The meeting will be hosted by officials from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and include Asotin County commissioners, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Asotin County Fire District No. 1 officials.

The 7 p.m. meeting will be at the Bennett Pavilion at the Asotin County Fairgrounds and will begin with an update on the Rockpile Creek Fire that burned private and public ground in the George Creek drainage. The rest of the meeting will concentrate on the Asotin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which will guide future wildland firefighting efforts in the county.

Many rural areas of Asotin County are without fire protection. Much of the private land that burned in the Rockpile Creek Fire was outside of any fire protection districts. Tempers flared when the suppression strategy of the Department of Natural Resources differed with the desires of some local residents.

Fire crews continued to put out hot spots Monday. The area was remapped and is now estimated to have burned 17,000 acres. Officials believe it started from fireworks at the Rockpile Canyon Trailhead managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### **2.4.2 Public Mail Survey**

A survey of Asotin County homeowners was conducted to collect a broad base of perceptions about wildland fire and individual risk factors. Approximately 303 county residents were randomly selected to receive the survey.

The survey developed for this project has been used in the past by Northwest Management, Inc. during the preparation of other mitigation plans. The survey uses the Total Design Method (Dillman 1978) as a model to schedule the timing and content of letters sent to selected recipients. Copies of each cover letter and survey are included in Appendix II.

The first in the series of mailings was sent on June 6, 2007, and included a cover letter, a survey form, and an offer of receiving a custom GIS map of the area if they would complete and return the survey. The free map incentive was tied into assisting their community and helping their interests by participating in the process. Each letter also informed residents about the planning process. A return, self-addressed envelope was included in each packet. A postcard reminder was sent to non-respondents on June 28, 2007, encouraging their response. A final mailing, with a revised cover letter urging them to participate, was sent to non-respondents on July 12, 2007.

Surveys were returned during the months of June, July, and August. A total of 128 residents responded to the survey as of September 18, 2007. The effective response rate for this survey was 42%. Statistically, this response rate allows the interpretation of all of the response variables significantly at the 99% confidence level.

#### **2.4.2.1 Survey Results**

A summary of the survey's results is presented here and referred back to during the ensuing discussions on the need for various treatments, education, and other information.

Of the 128 respondents in the survey, approximately 48% were from the Asotin area, 30% were from Clarkston, 13% lived near Anatone, and the remaining respondents were from other areas in the county at a rate of about 1% or 2% per community.

All but one respondent correctly identified that they have emergency telephone 911 services in their area. When asked if their home was protected by a local fire department, approximately 16% indicated that they were within a fire protection district, when, in fact, they are not. 60% of those that believed they are within a fire protection district said that the average response time by a fire department to their home was less than 10 minutes, 29% thought the average response time was between 10 and 20 minutes, 10% of respondents thought that a fire department would be there within 20 to 30 minutes, 0% thought it would take 30 to 45 minutes, and 1% thought it would take longer than 45 minutes.

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of roofing material covering the main structure of their home. Approximately 61% of respondents indicated their homes were covered with a composite material (asphalt shingles). About 25% indicated their homes were covered with a metal (e.g., aluminum, tin) roofing material, and 9% of the respondents indicated they have a wooden roof (e.g. shake, shingles).

When asked if they have trees within 250 feet of their home, only 10% indicated there were none, 61% said less than 10, 19% said between 10 and 25 trees, and 9% indicated more than 25 trees. 87% of respondents replied that they had a lawn and 98% of those said they kept it green year round.

The average driveway length of respondents to the survey was 335 feet long (.06 miles). The longest reported was 1 mile. Of those respondents (7%) with a driveway over ¼ mile long, 47% do not have turnouts allowing two vehicles to pass. 6% of respondents with a driveway indicated having a dirt surface, while 66% had gravel or rock and 29% had a paved driveway. Approximately 70% of the respondents indicated an alternate escape route was available in an emergency that cut off their primary driveway access.

100% of respondents indicated they have some type of tools to use against a wildfire that threatens their home. Table 2.1 summarizes these responses.

**Table 2.1. Percent of homes with firefighting tools in Asotin County.**

- 98% – Hand tools (shovel, axe, etc.)
- 18% – Portable water tank
- 6% – Fixed/Stationary water tank
- 48% – Pond, lake, swimming pool, or stream water supply close
- 8% – Water pump and fire hose
- 36% – Well or cistern
- 19% – Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, farm tractor, etc.)

20% of respondents indicated that they had fuel storage near their home that could be at risk of ignition by wildfire.

Respondents were asked to complete a fuel hazard rating worksheet to assess their home’s fire risk rating. The following is an example of the worksheet and a summarization of responses (Table 2.2).

**Circle the ratings in each category that best describes your home.**

Table 2.2. Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet		Rating	Results
<b>Fuel Hazard</b>	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1	61%
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2	32%
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3	7%
<b>Slope Hazard</b>	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1	59%
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2	22%
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3	12%
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4	6%
<b>Structure Hazard</b>	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1	30%
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3	34%
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7	11%
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10	25%
<b>Additional Factors</b>	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2	Average -1.2 pts
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3	
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4	
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3	
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire departments, dozers)	-3	

**Calculating your risk**

Values below are the average response value to each question for those living in both rural and urban areas.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Fuel hazard} & \underline{1.4} & \times \text{Slope Hazard} \underline{1.6} = \underline{2.2} \\
 \text{Structural hazard} & + & \underline{4.4} \\
 \text{Additional factors} & (+ \text{ or } -) & \underline{-1.2} \\
 \text{Total Hazard Points} & = & \underline{5.4}
 \end{array}$$

**Table 2.3. Percent of respondents in each risk category as determined by the survey respondents.**

---

00% – Extreme Risk = 26 + points
04% – High Risk = 16–25 points
35% – Moderate Risk = 7–15 points
61% – Low Risk = 6 or less points

---

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding mitigation activities they had recently done or currently do on their property. The first question asked if they conducted a periodic fuels reduction program near their home or farmstead; 83% said that they did. Respondents were also asked if livestock were grazed around their home; 25% indicated there were.

Finally, respondents were asked “If offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free or low cost, half-day training seminar designed to share with homeowners how to reduce the potential for casualty loss surrounding your home?” Approximately 55% of respondents indicated a desire to participate in this type of training.

Homeowners were also asked, “How Hazard Mitigation projects should be funded in the areas surrounding homes, communities, and infrastructure such as power lines and major roads?” Responses are summarized in Table 2.4.

**Table 2.4. Public Opinion of Hazard Mitigation Funding Preferences.**

	100% Public Funding	Cost-Share (Public & Private)	Privately Funded (Owner or Company)
<b>Home Defensibility Projects →</b>	25%	40%	35%
<b>Community Defensibility Projects →</b>	52%	43%	5%
<b>Infrastructure Projects Roads, Bridges, Power Lines, Etc. →</b>	60%	25%	15%

### 2.4.3 Public Meetings

Public meetings were scheduled in two communities in Asotin County during the hazard assessment phase of the planning process. Public meetings are intended to share information on the planning process, inform details of the hazard assessments, and discuss potential mitigation treatments. Attendees at the public meetings were asked to give their impressions of the accuracy of the information generated and provide their opinions of potential treatments.

The schedule of public meetings included an afternoon and evening meeting in Asotin and an evening meeting in Anatone. The venues were attended by a number of individuals on the committee and from the general public. The public meeting announcement sent to the local newspapers, local radio stations, fire district representatives, and distributed by committee members is included below in Figure 2.1. The committee also set up a booth at the Asotin County Fair in April. This afforded a great opportunity to interact with the public, provide wildfire education materials, and gather comments on the CWPP planning process.

Figure 2.2. Public Meeting Announcement.

**Asotin County, Washington**



**Community Wildfire  
Protection Plan**

**Public Meeting!**

---

Wednesday, June 13th, 2007

Asotin County Fairgrounds, Bennett Building - 12 pm  
Anatone Community Center - 6:30 pm

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Please come and provide input and  
comments on the Asotin County  
Community Wildfire Protection Plan!

**Meeting will last 1 hour.**

For more information on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan project in Asotin County, contact Megan Stewart with the Asotin County Conservation District at (509) 758-8012.



The following slideshow was presented at each of the public meetings by Tera King or William Schlosser of Northwest Management, Inc. In addition, Megan Stewart with the Conservation District or other planning committee representative opened the meeting with a brief introduction.

Table 2.5. Public meeting slide show.

Slide 1



**Asotin County,**  
*Community Wildfire Protection Plan*

**Northwest Management, Inc.**  
William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.  
Tera King, B.S.  
Valden Bloch, M.S.

233 East Palouse River Drive  
Moscow, Idaho 83843  
206-863-4488 Telephone  
www.Consulting-Foresters.com



June 13, 2007

Slide 2



**Northwest Management, Inc.**

---

- Serving the Western U.S. since 1984
- Main Office in Moscow, Idaho
  - Deer Park, Washington
  - Hayden, Idaho
  - Helena, Montana
- Full Service Natural Resource Consultants
  - Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Planning
  - All Hazards Mitigation Planning

*Providing a balanced approach to natural  
resource management*

Slide 3



### Who is on the committee?

- Asotin County Commissioners
- County Departments
- City Offices
- City and Rural Fire Departments
- Conservation District
- Washington Parks and Rec
- Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service
- Corp of Engineers
- Forest Industry
- Clearwater Power
- Landowners

Slide 4

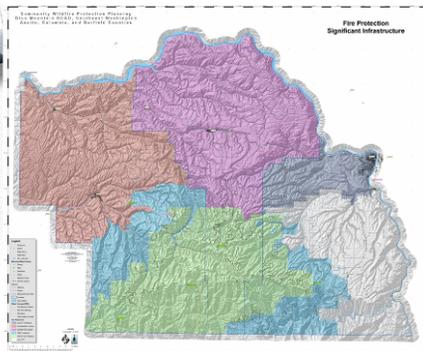


### Planning Guidelines

- National Fire Plan (NFP)
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HF1)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Slide 5

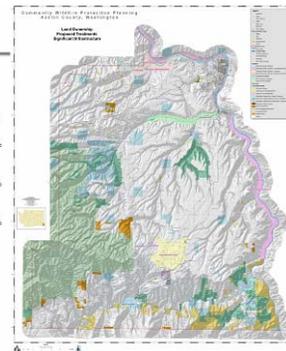


Slide 6



#### Treatments

- Defensible Space, Education
- Defensible Space, Education, Firework Restrictions
- Defensible Space, Education, Ordinance
- Defensible Space, Education, Road Fuels Treatment
- Dipping Pond Needed
- Fuels Treatment, Education
- Hwy 12 Fuels Treatment



Slide 7



### ...the Wildland/Urban Interface Fire



Slide 8



Slide 9



Slide 10



### Preparedness

- Emergency Services
- City and Rural Fire Protection
- Wildland Fire Protection
- Local Government
- Local Organizations



Slide 11

**How prepared are you (really)?**

- How many escape routes do you have?
- Firefighter Access?



Slide 12

**How prepared are you (really)?**

- Construction Materials?
- Landscaping Techniques?
- Access Issues?
- Power lines?



Slide 13

**Types of Projects**

- Defensible Space
  - Thinning, pruning, mowing, construction materials, types of landscaping, wood piles, propane tanks, awareness, etc.
- Roadside Fuels Treatments
- Access Issues
  - Bridges, turnouts, road width, turnarounds, overhangs, etc.
- Emergency Response Needs
  - Training, equipment, recruitment, PPEs, etc.
- Policy Issues
  - Building codes, road restrictions, public education, etc.
- Pre-planning Efforts in High Risk Areas

Slide 14



Slide 15

**Public Involvement**

- Press Releases about planning efforts
- Public Mail Survey was sent to about 300 households in Asotin County
- Public Meetings - today
- Public Review of the DRAFT Plans will be facilitated once all sections have been completed and reviewed by the committee

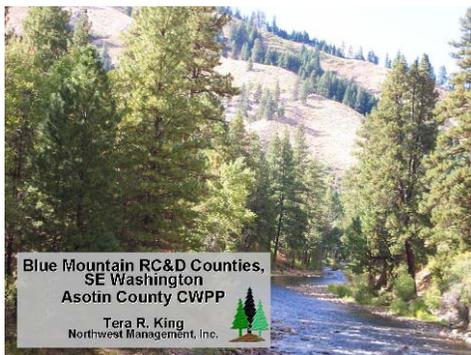
Slide 16

**Your Input**

- Maps on the Walls – Mark them up!
- Talk to one of the planning committee members.
- Let us know your ideas and concerns.
- Make this YOUR Plan!
- **Thank you for attending and participating! Please visit with us.**



Slide 17



## 2.4.4 Documented Review Process

Review and comment on these plans has been provided through a number of avenues for the committee members as well as the members of the general public.

During regularly scheduled committee meetings in 2007, the committee met to discuss findings, review mapping and analysis, and provide written comments on draft sections of the document. During the public meetings attendees observed map analyses, photographic collections, discussed general findings from the community assessments, and made recommendations on potential project areas.

The first draft of the document was prepared after the public meetings and presented to the committee on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for a full committee review. The draft document was released for public review on October 12, 2007. The public review period remained open until November 9, 2007.

#### **2.4.5 Continued Public Involvement**

Asotin County is dedicated to involving the public directly in review and updates of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Asotin County Commissioners, through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan committee, are responsible for the annual review and update of the plan as recommended in the “Administration and Implementation Strategy” section of this document.

The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the Plan annually on the anniversary of its adoption at a meeting of the County Commissioners. Copies of the Plan will be kept at the office of the Asotin County Emergency Manager.

A public meeting will also be held as part of each annual evaluation or when deemed necessary by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan committee. The meeting will provide the public a forum for which they can express concerns, opinions, or ideas about the Plan. The County Commissioner’s Office will be responsible for using County resources to publicize the annual public meeting and maintain public involvement through the County webpage and newspapers.