Chapter 5

5 Administration & Action Items

Critical to the implementation of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be the identification of, and implementation of, an integrated schedule of treatments targeted at achieving a reduction in the number of human caused fires and overall impact of wildland fires on Asotin County. As there are many land management agencies and thousands of private landowners in Asotin 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.

Asotin County encourages the philosophy of instilling disaster resistance in normal day-to-day operations. By implementing plan activities through existing programs and resources, the cost of mitigation is often a small portion of the overall cost of a project's design or program.

The land management agencies in Asotin County, specifically the USDA Forest Service, the State, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, are participants in this planning process and have contributed to its development. Where available, their schedule of land treatments have been considered in this planning process to better facilitate a correlation between their identified planning efforts and the efforts of Asotin County.

All risk assessments were made based on the conditions existing during 2007, thus, the recommendations in this section have been made in light of those conditions. However, the components of 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 Asotin County in relation to this planning document, this entire Community Wildfire Protection Plan should be reviewed annually (from date of adoption) at a special meeting of the planning committee, open to the public and involving all municipalities/jurisdictions, where action items, priorities, budgets, and modifications can be made or confirmed. The Asotin County Emergency Manager (or an official designee of the Asotin County Commissioners) is responsible for the scheduling, publicizing, and leadership of the annual review meeting. During this meeting, participating jurisdictions will report on their respective projects and identify needed changes and updates to the existing plan. Maintenance to the plan should be detailed at this meeting, documented, and attached to the formal plan as an amendment. Re-evaluation of this plan should be made on the 5th anniversary of its acceptance, and every 5-year period following.

5.1 Prioritization of Mitigation Activities

The prioritization process will include a special emphasis on benefit-cost analysis review. The process will reflect that a key component in any funding decision is a determination that the project will provide an equivalent or more in benefits over the life of the project when compared with the costs. Projects will be administered by county and local jurisdictions with overall coordination provided by the County Commissioners and the CWPP planning committee involved in the development of this Plan.

County Commissioners and the elected officials of all jurisdictions will evaluate opportunities and establish their own unique priorities to accomplish mitigation activities where existing funds, staffing, and resources are available and there is community interest in implementing mitigation

measures. If no federal funding is used in these situations, the prioritization process may be less formal. Often the types of projects that the County can afford to do on their own are in relation to improved codes and standards, department planning and preparedness, and education. These types of projects may not meet the traditional project model, selection criteria, and benefit-cost model. The County will consider all pre-disaster mitigation proposals brought before the County Commissioners by department heads, city officials, fire districts and local civic groups.

When federal or state funding is available for hazard mitigation, there are usually requirements that establish a rigorous benefit-cost analysis as a guiding criterion in establishing project priorities. The County will understand the basic federal grant program criteria which will drive the identification, selection, and funding of the most competitive and worthy mitigation projects. FEMA's two grant programs (the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant programs) that offer federal mitigation funding to state and local governments all include the benefit-cost and repetitive loss selection criteria.

The prioritization of new projects and deletion of completed projects will occur annually and be facilitated by the County Emergency Manager and the existing planning committee to include the County Commissioner's Office, city mayors and councils, fire district chiefs and commissioners, agency representatives (USFS, WA DNR, NACD, etc.), landowners, and other community organizations. All mitigation activities, recommendations, and action items mentioned in this document are dependent on available funding and staffing. The prioritization of projects will be based on the selection of projects which create a balanced approach to mitigation which recognizes the hierarchy of treating in order (highest first):

- People
- Infrastructure
- Local and Regional Economy
- Traditional Way of Life
- Ecosystems

5.1.1 Prioritization Scheme

A numerical scoring system is used to prioritize projects. This prioritization serves as a guide for the County when developing mitigation activities. This project prioritization scheme has been designed to rank projects on a case by case basis. In many cases, a very good project in a lower priority category could outrank a mediocre project in a higher priority. The County mitigation program does not want to restrict funding to only those projects that meet the high priorities because what may be a high priority for a specific community may not be a high priority at the county level. Regardless, the project may be just what the community needs to mitigate disaster. The flexibility to fund a variety of diverse projects based on varying reasons and criteria is a necessity for a functional mitigation program at the County and community level.

To implement this case by case concept, a more detailed process for evaluating and prioritizing projects has been developed. Any type of project, whether county or site specific, will be prioritized in this more formal manner.

Since planning projects are somewhat different than non-planning projects when it comes to reviewing them, different criteria will be considered, depending on the type of project.

The factors for the non-planning projects include:

- Benefit / Cost
- Population Benefit
- Property Benefit

- Economic Benefit
- Project Feasibility (environmentally, politically, socially)
- Hazard Magnitude/Frequency
- Potential for repetitive loss reduction
- Potential to mitigate hazards to future development
- Potential project effectiveness and sustainability

The factors for the planning projects include:

- Benefit / Cost
- Vulnerability of the community or communities
- Potential for repetitive loss reduction
- Potential to mitigate hazards to future development

Since some factors are considered more critical than others, two ranking scales have been developed. A scale of 1-10, 10 being the best, has been used for cost, population benefit, property benefit, economic benefit, and vulnerability of the community. Project feasibility, hazard magnitude/frequency, potential for repetitive loss reduction, potential to mitigate hazards to future development, and potential project effectiveness and sustainability are all rated on a 1-5 scale, with 5 being the best. The highest possible score for a non-planning project is 65 and for a planning project is 30.

The guidelines for each category are as follows:

5.1.1.1 Benefit / Cost (BC)

The analysis process will include summaries as appropriate for each project as well as benefit / cost analysis results. Projects with a negative BC analysis result will be ranked as a 0. Projects with a positive BC analysis will receive a score equal to the projects BC analysis results divided by 25. Therefore a project with a BC ratio of 125:1 would receive 5 points, a project with a BC ratio of 250:1 (or higher) would receive the maximum points of 10.

FEMA Requirement §201.4(c)(4)(iii) details criteria for prioritizing communities and local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding programs, which should include consideration for communities with the highest risks, repetitive loss properties, and most intense development pressures. Further, the requirement states that for non-planning grants, a principal criterion for prioritizing grants shall be the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a BC review of proposed projects and their associated costs. For many of the initiatives identified in this plan, the County may seek financial assistance under FEMA's HMGP or PDM programs. Both of these programs require detailed BC analysis as part of the FEMA award process. Asotin County is committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits which exceed costs. For projects which do not require financial assistance from grant programs that require this type of analysis, the County reserves the right to define "benefits" according to parameters that would otherwise be considered subjective, while still meeting the needs and goals of the plan.

5.1.1.2 Population Benefit

Population benefit relates to the ability of the project to prevent the loss of life or injuries. A ranking of 10 has the potential to impact 90% or more of the people in the municipality (County, city, or district). A ranking of 5 has the potential to impact 50% of the people, and a ranking of 1 will not impact the population. The calculated score will be the percent of the population impacted positively multiplied by 10. In some cases, a project may not directly provide

population benefits, but may lead to actions that do, such as in the case of a study. Those projects will not receive as high of a rating as one that directly effects the population, but should not be considered to have no population benefit.

5.1.1.3 Property Benefit

Property benefit relates to the prevention of physical losses to structures, infrastructure, and personal property. These losses can be attributed to potential dollar losses. Similar to cost, a ranking of 10 has the potential to save $100,000,000 or more in losses. Property benefit of less than $100,000,000 will receive a score of the benefit divided by $100,000,000, times 10 (for property benefits below $100 million). Therefore, a property benefit of $20,000,000 would receive a score of 2 ([20,000,000÷100,000,000] x 10 = 2). In some cases, a project may not directly provide property benefits, but may lead to actions that do, such as in the case of a study. Those projects will not receive as high of a rating as one that directly effects property, but should not be considered to have no property benefit.

5.1.1.4 Economic Benefit

Economic benefit is related to the savings from mitigation to the economy. This benefit includes reduction of losses in revenues, jobs, and facility shut downs. Since this benefit can be difficult to evaluate, a ranking of 10 would prevent a total economic collapse, a ranking of 5 could prevent losses to about half the economy, and a ranking of 1 would not prevent any economic losses. In some cases, a project may not directly provide economic benefits, but may lead to actions that do, such as in the case of a study. Those projects will not receive as high of a rating as one that directly affects the economy, but should not be considered to have no economic benefit.

5.1.1.5 Vulnerability of the Community

For planning projects, the vulnerability of the community is considered. A community that has a high vulnerability with respect to other jurisdictions to the hazard or hazards being studied or planned for will receive a higher score. To promote planning participation by the smaller or less vulnerable communities in the state, the score will be based on the other communities being considered for planning grants. A community that is the most vulnerable will receive a score of 10, and one that is the least, a score of 1.

5.1.1.6 Project Feasibility (Environmentally, Politically & Socially)

Project feasibility relates to the likelihood that such a project could be completed. Projects with low feasibility would include projects with significant environmental concerns or public opposition. A project with high feasibility has public and political support without environmental concerns. Those projects with very high feasibility would receive a ranking of 5 and those with very low would receive a ranking of 1.

5.1.1.7 Hazard Magnitude/Frequency

The hazard magnitude/frequency rating is a combination of the recurrence period and magnitude of a hazard. The severity of the hazard being mitigated and the frequency of that event must both be considered. For example, a project mitigating a 10-year event that causes significant damage would receive a higher rating than one that mitigates a 500-year event that causes minimal damage. For a ranking of 5, the project mitigates a high frequency, high

magnitude event. A 1 ranking is for a low frequency, low magnitude event. Note that only the damages being mitigated should be considered here, not the entire losses from that event.

5.1.1.8 Potential for repetitive loss reduction

Those projects that mitigate repetitive losses receive priority consideration here. Common sense dictates that losses that occur frequently will continue to do so until the hazard is mitigated. Projects that will reduce losses that have occurred more than three times receive a rating of 5. Those that do not address repetitive losses receive a rating of 1.

5.1.1.9 Potential to mitigate hazards to future development

Proposed actions that can have a direct impact on the vulnerability of future development are given additional consideration. If hazards can be mitigated on the onset of the development, the County will be less vulnerable in the future. Projects that will have a significant effect on all future development receive a rating of 5. Those that do not affect development should receive a rating of 1.

5.1.1.10 Potential project effectiveness and sustainability

Two important aspects of all projects are effectiveness and sustainability. For a project to be worthwhile, it needs to be effective and actually mitigate the hazard. A project that is questionable in its effectiveness will score lower in this category. Sustainability is the ability for the project to be maintained. Can the project sustain itself after grant funding is spent? Is maintenance required? If so, are or will the resources be in place to maintain the project. An action that is highly effective and sustainable will receive a ranking of 5. A project with effectiveness that is highly questionable and not easily sustained should receive a ranking of 1.

5.1.1.11 Final ranking

Upon ranking a project in each of these categories, a total score can be derived by adding together each of the scores. The project can then be ranked high, medium, or low based on the thresholds of:

Project Ranking Priority Score Non-Planning Projects

- High 40-65
- Medium 25-39
- Low 1-24

Project Ranking Priority Score Planning Projects

- High 18-30
- Medium 12-17
- Low 1-11

5.2 Possible Wildfire Mitigation Activities

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

- Homeowner and landowner education
- Policy changes for structures and infrastructure in the Wildland Urban Interface

- Home site defensible zone through fuels modification
- Community defensible zone through fuels alteration
- Access improvements
- Emergency response enhancements (training, equipment, locating new fire stations, new fire districts)
- Regional land management recommendations for private, state, and federal landowners

Maintaining private property rights will continue to be one of the guiding principles of this plan's implementation. 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.

5.3 Safety & Policy

Wildfire mitigation efforts must 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. Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.1.a: Develop County policy concerning building materials used in high-risk WUI areas on existing structures and new construction.	**Protection of people and structures** by improving the ability of emergency response personnel to respond to threatened homes in high-risk areas. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioner's Office **Support:** Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): 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 heavy wildland fuels.
5.1.b: Begin distributing "Code of the New West"-type pamphlets with building permit requests.	**Protection of people and structures** by improving the ability of emergency response personnel to respond to threatened homes in high-risk areas. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Building Department **Support:** County Commissioners and incorporated cities of Clarkston and Asotin	Year 1 (2008): Obtain copyrights to "New Code of the West" pamphlet. Year 2 (2009): Distribute pamphlets.

Table 5.1. Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.1.c: Rural signage (road signs & house numbers) improvements across the County.	**Protection of people, structures, and infrastructure** by improving the ability of emergency services personnel, residents, and visitors to navigate roads. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Building Department **Support:** County Planning Department and County Commissioners	Can be completed during year 1 (2008) pending funding to implement the project. Estimate $20,000 for signs and posting.
5.1.d: Develop county policy to encourage new home and business construction to install underground power lines.	**Protection of people and structures by** reducing the risk of wildfire ignitions. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Planning Department **Support:** County Commissioner's Office, Asotin County Public Utilities District, BPA, and Clearwater Power.	Year 1-2(2008-09): Implement a policy to require new utility lines to be buried underground. Year 3 (2010): Collaborate with Asotin County Public Utilities District and local utility companies to implement this policy.
5.1.e: Develop a policy to enforce burning permits and fire restrictions throughout the County.	**Protection of people and structures** by reducing the fire ignitions in high-risk areas. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** City and County Planning Departments, Asotin County Sheriff's Office, DNR, incorporated cities of Clarkston and Asotin, and local communities.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Consider and develop policy to address burn permit system and enforcement to help reduce the number of accidental wildfire ignitions.
5.1.f: Incorporate the Asotin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan into the Asotin County Comprehensive Plan, where applicable.	**Protection of people and structures** by dovetailing this planning process with other County planning documents. Priority: High	**Lead:** Asotin County Commissioners **Support:** Asotin County Planning Department.	Ongoing: Incorporate the goals and projects outlined in this plan into the updated Comprehensive Plan.
5.1.g: Adopt stringent regulations to insure fire-safe development of rural subdivisions (see FIREWISE or similar programs for specific recommendations).	**Protection of people and structures** by improving the ability of emergency services personnel to safely and effectively respond to home fires and decrease the overall fire risk in wildland urban interface areas. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Planning Department **Support:** County Commissioner's Office, County Building Department, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department, developers, BPA, Clearwater, and interested residents.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Research fire-safety related programs such as FIREWISE to determine specific recommendations for policy changes regarding development of rural subdivisions. Year 2 – 3 (2009 – 2010): Begin gathering public support of new regulations. Produce and submit necessary documentation to facilitate County adoption of recommended regulations.
5.1.h: Adopt and enforce a fireworks ban in areas unprotected by a firefighting organization during the fire season. Designate safe "firework areas" within protected communities.	**Protection of people and structures** by reducing fire ignitions in high-risk, unprotected areas. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** Asotin County Sheriff's Office, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, City of Asotin Fire Department, and incorporated cities of Clarkston and Asotin.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Consider and develop fireworks ban in areas unprotected by a firefighting organization and designate areas within protected communities where people can safely light fireworks. Develop an effective method of enforcement and penalty for violation of proposed ban.

Table 5.1. Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.1.i: Enforcement of International Building Codes and International Fire Codes countywide to address substandard construction practices and access issues outside the incorporated city limits.	**Protection of people and structures** by improving access for emergency responders and reducing potential ignition risks due to substandard construction. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** Asotin County Planning and Zoning, Public Works, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Develop a strategic plan for insuring that all International Building and Fire Code regulations are enforced countywide.
5.1.j: Develop county policy requiring management of vegetation on empty or open lots and pastures within the city limits and heavily populated areas in the unincorporated Asotin County to reduce the fire risk.	**Protection of people and structures by** reducing the risk of wildfire ignitions as well as uncontrolled fire spread. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Planning Department **Support:** County Commissioner's Office, City of Asotin, City of Clarkston, City of Asotin Fire Department, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Develop a policy to require owners of empty or open lots and pasture in populated areas to implement a vegetation/fuels management program (mowing, herbicide, etc.) to lessen the risk of accidental ignition and fire spread in these high risk fuels. Year 3 (2010): Collaborate with Asotin County Fire District #1 and city fire departments to develop adequate policy.
5.1.k: Develop a county policy to encourage land management agencies to implement a fuels reduction program at recreational or high use areas and trailheads.	**Protection of people and structures by** reducing the risk of wildfire ignitions. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** County Planning, City of Asotin, City of Clarkston, USFS, DNR, BLM, Department of Fish and Wildlife, City of Asotin Fire Department, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Develop a policy to encourage land management agencies to actively manage fuels in high use areas to reduce the risk of accidental ignitions. Year 1 (2010): Collaborate with local fire departments and various land management agencies to develop a mutually agreed upon policy.
5.1.l: Develop a communication interoperability plan between firefighting agencies/organizations and landowners.	**Protection of people and structures by** improving communication between residents and firefighters. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Sheriff's Office, USFS, DNR, BLM, Department of Fish and Wildlife, City of Asotin Fire Department, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1 (2008): Convene a multi-jurisdictional committee to work on the development of a communications interoperability plan. Year 1 – 2 (2008 - 09): Develop and publish a practical and feasible plan and implement objectives.
5.1.m: Install fire danger notification/awareness signs along travel corridors in Anatone, Cloverland, along Snake River, and at the entrance/exit of Asotin.	**Protection of people and structures by** improving local awareness of wildfire danger. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioners, Asotin County Conservation District, USFS, DNR, City of Asotin Fire Department, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1 (2008): Research potential options for budget and maintenance and develop a project implementation plan. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment. Set up a schedule for maintenance of accurate information at each site.

Table 5.1. Action Items in Safety and Policy.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.1.n: Coordinate and help fund a "fire marshal" type position to assist the County in enforcing existing fire codes and lead development of projects resulting from the CWPP process.	**Protection of people and structures by** improving the County's ability to reduce wildfire risk and implement projects. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** Local residents, Conservation District, City of Asotin Fire Department, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and Asotin County Fire District #1.	Year 1-2 (2008-09): Develop specific job description and begin gathering local and governmental support. Year 3 (2010): Create position and begin hiring process.

5.4 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 firefighter 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 Asotin 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 common theme was present that pointed to a situation of landowners not recognizing risk factors:

- 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 generally identify risk factors.
- A large number of the respondents to the public mail survey (55%) indicated 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.

Residents and policy makers of Asotin 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 Asotin County. The 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 Asotin County has led to a reduction of many of the fine fuels that would have been found in and around the communities and in the wildlands of Asotin County. Domestic livestock not only eat these grasses, forbs, and shrubs, but they also trample certain fuels to the ground where decomposition rates may increase. Livestock ranchers tend their stock, placing additional sets of eyes into the forests and rangelands of the County where they may observe ignitions or potentially risky activities. Livestock grazing in this region should be encouraged in the future as a low cost, positive tool of wildfire mitigation in the wildland-urban interface and beyond.

Forest management in Asotin County has not been greatly affected by the reduction of operating sawmills in the region. The forest management programs of the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources in the region has led to some reduction of wildland fuels where they are closest to homes and infrastructure; however, there is significant room for growth in these agencies' fuels reduction programs. In addition, many

private and industrial forest landowners have implemented very active forest management programs that are leading to a significant decrease in high risk fuels. Furthermore, forests are dynamic systems that will never be completely free from risk. Treated stands will need repeated treatments to reduce the risk to acceptable levels in the long term. Asotin County, as well as several other organizations and agencies, is currently considering using prescribed fire as a management tool to reduce hazardous fuels on their lands.

Agriculture is a significant component of Asotin County's economy. Much of the rangeland interface is made up of a mosaic of agricultural crops. The original conversion of these lands to agriculture from rangeland and forestland, was targeted at the most productive soils and juxtaposition to water. Many of these productive rangeland 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 much of the landscape 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 Asotin County is integral to the continued management of wildfire risk in this region.

Salvage logging after a wildfire event can help capture some of the burned over timber's economic value if implemented immediately after the wildfire event. Additionally, the removal of dead or dying trees can help lessen the forest's subsequent attack by insects. Salvage logging, if done responsibly, can be effective in accomplishing both the economic goals of the administrating party as well as help reduce fuel loads in high risk areas.

Prescribed fire can be used as a tool in forest and rangeland management programs to accomplish several goals. Prescribed fire, when done correctly and in appropriate areas, can help reduce hazardous fuel loads. Prescribed fire has also been used to prepare sites for seeding or planting, improve wildlife habitat, manage competing vegetation, control insects and disease, improve forage for grazing, enhance appearance, and improve access.

Table 5.2. Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.2.a: Implementation of 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. Priority: High	Cooperative effort including: • Washington Department of Natural Resources • State and Private Forestry Offices • Bureau of Land Management • USDA Forest Service • Local School Districts • Asotin County Conservation District • Local utility companies • Local Non-governmental Community Organizations • Local Fire District and Departments in Asotin County • Incorporated cities Clarkston and Asotin and communities of Asotin County	To start immediately using existing educational program materials and staffing (e.g. Forest Stewardship class offered by Washington State University). Formal needs assessment should be the responsibility of WSU Extension and include the development of an integrated WUI educational series by year 2 (2009). 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.	**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. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager and Washington DNR **Support:** County Commissioner's, Asotin Conservation District, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department. 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 9,543 parcels (with improvements) in Asotin County, roughly 954 (10%) of these structures would benefit from a home site inspection and budget determination for a total estimate of $95,400. Action Item: Secure funding and contract to complete the inspections during years 1 & 2 (2008-09) 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 defensible space treatments.	**Protect people, structures, and increase firefighter safety** by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Asotin County. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager and Washington DNR **Support:** County Commissioner's, Conservation District, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Actual cost level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments. Estimate that treatments in rangelands will cost approximately $400 per home site for a defensible space of roughly 150'. Approximately 668 home site treatments (70% of those assessed) throughout the County would add up to an estimated cost of $267,200. Home site defensible space treatments in forested areas typically cost approximately $1,000 for a defensible space of roughly 200'. Home site treatments can begin with the securing of funding for the treatments and immediate implementation in 2008 and will continue from year 1 through 5 (2011).

Table 5.2. Action Items for People and Structures.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.2.d: Community defensible zone treatments in rural subdivisions or housing clusters.	**Protect people, structures, and increase firefighter safety** by reducing the risk factors surrounding high risk communities in the WUI of Asotin County. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager and Washington DNR **Support:** County Commissioner's, Conservation District, BPA, Clearwater Power, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates. Years 2-5 (2009-11): Treat high risk wildland fuels from home site defensible space treatments to an area extending 400 feet to 750 feet beyond home defensible spaces, where steep slopes and high accumulations of risky fuels exist near homes and infrastructure. 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. Approximate average cost on a per parcel basis is $2,800 (average 4 acres per home) depending on extent of home defensibility site treatments, estimate 334 homes (50% of treated homes) in need of this type of treatment for a cost estimate of $935,200.
5.2.e: Maintenance of home site defensible space treatments.	**Protect people, structures, and increase firefighter safety** by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Asotin County. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager and Washington DNR **Support:** County Commissioner's, Conservation District, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Home site defensibility treatments must be maintained periodically to sustain benefits of the initial treatments. Each site should be assessed every 5 years following initial treatment Estimated re-inspection cost will be $300 per home site on all sites initially treated or recommended for future inspections ($200,400). Follow-up inspection reports with treatments as recommended every 5 years following initial treatment.

5.5 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 southeastern Washington, and to Asotin 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 mitigation recommendations.

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.

Transportation Infrastructure (road and rail networks): This component of the WUI has some significant potential limitations in Asotin County. U.S. Highway 12 is the primary maintained routes linking Asotin County to other major population centers including Lewiston and Walla Walla. Thus, a significant amount of interstate and international traffic travels through the County. Also, State Highway 129, Asotin Creek Road, and the Snake River Road connect the more remote communities of Rogersburg, Cloverland, and Anatone. In the event any of these roadways are disabled, access or evacuation to some areas may become limited to seasonally maintained secondary roads or forest routes.

Other roads in the County have limiting characteristics, such as narrow travel surfaces, sharp turning radii, low load limit bridges and cattle guards, and heavy accumulations of fuels adjacent to and overtopping the corridor. Some of these roads access remote forestland and rangeland areas. While their improvements will facilitate access in the case of a wildfire, they are not 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.

Energy Transport Supply Systems (gas and power lines): A number of power lines crisscross Asotin County. Unfortunately, many of these power lines cross over rangeland ecosystems. When fires ignite in these vegetation types, the fires tend to be rapidly spreading and burn at variable intensities depending on the weather conditions. There is a potential for high temperatures and low humidity with high winds to produce enough heat and smoke to threaten power line stability. Most power line corridors have been cleared of vegetation both near the wires and from the ground below. Observations across the County of the primary transmission lines lead to the conclusion that many of the lines should be evaluated for potential widening of the corridor and further removal of brush and other vegetation from the ground below the wires.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Clearwater Power maintain several power lines in the county; however, these lines cross only rangeland, agricultural, or otherwise developed areas. Nearly all Asotin County residents are dependent on this power grid for electricity. The use of these areas as "fuel breaks" should be evaluated further, especially in light of the treatments enumerated in this plan (e.g., intensive livestock grazing, mechanical treatments, and herbicide treatments).

Water Supply: In many of Washington'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 and creation of ash and sediment. As such, watersheds should be afforded the highest level of protection from catastrophic wildfire impacts. In Asotin County, water is supplied to many homes by single home or multiple home wells or pumped from the Snake River.

Table 5.3. Action Items for Infrastructure Enhancements.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.3.a: Post "Emergency Evacuation Route" signs along the identified primary and secondary access routes.	**Protection of people and structures by** informing residents and visitors of significant infrastructure in the County that will be maintained in the case of an emergency. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Public Works, County Commissioner's, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department..	Year 1 (2008): Purchase of signs. Post roads and make information available to residents of the importance of Emergency Routes.
5.3.b: Create and maintain defensible space around critical infrastructure including, but not limited to power line corridors, communication sites, community shelters, government buildings (city, County, State, and federal), petroleum storage sites, hospitals, water storage sites, and PUD Service Stations.	**Protect people, structures, and increase firefighter safety** by decreasing the risk of loss of critical communications infrastructure to wildland fire. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioners, Conservation District, BPA, Clearwater Power, and incorporated cities of Clarkston and Asotin, Asotin County Public Utilities District, and various facility/utility owners.	Year 1 (2008): Meet with facility and utility owners operating communications infrastructure in Asotin County and set up a criteria for maintaining a defensible space in these areas. Year 2 (2009): Develop defensible space plans and begin implementing hazardous fuel reduction projects.
5.3.c: Access improvements of bridges, cattle guards, culverts, and limiting road surfaces.	**Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy** by improving access for residents and firefighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Reduce 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. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** County Public Works **Support:** County Commissioners, Conservation District, State of Washington (Lands and Transportation), USFS, DNR, and private landowners.	Year 1 (2008): Update existing assessment of travel surfaces, bridges, and cattle guards in Asotin County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants). Year 2 (2009): Conduct engineering assessment of limiting weight restrictions for all surfaces (e.g., bridge weight load maximums). Estimate cost of $XXX which might be shared between County, BLM, USFS, State, and private based on landownership associated with road locations. Year 2 (2009): Post weight restriction signs on all limiting crossings, copy information to rural fire districts and wildland fire protection agencies in affected areas. Estimate cost at roughly $10-$15,000 for signs and posting. Year 3 (2010): Identify limiting road surfaces in need of improvements to support wildland firefighting 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.

Table 5.3. Action Items for Infrastructure Enhancements.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.3.d: Fuels mitigation of the primary access routes in the County to insure these routes can be maintained in the case of an emergency.	**Protection of people and structures by** providing residents and visitors with ingress and egress that can be maintained during an emergency. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Public Works and Washington Department of Transportation **Support:** County Commissioner's Office, USFS, DNR, Conservation District, and private landowners.	Year 1 (2008): Full assessment of road defensibility and ownership participation. Year 2 (2009): Implement projects.
5.3.e: Access improvements through roadside fuels management.	**Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy** by improving access for residents and firefighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Allows for a road based defensible area that can be linked to a terrain based defensible areas. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Public Works, State of Washington (Lands and Transportation), USFS, DNR, Conservation District, and private landowners.	Year 1 (2008): Update existing assessment of roads in Asotin County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants). Year 2 (2009): Specifically address access issues to roads identified in assessment. Identify forestland and rangeland fuels difficult to control during wildfire that would also respond well to thinning, pruning, and brush cutting (hand pile and burn or chip), while increasing ingress and egress use in wildfire emergencies. Target 200' from each side of the road for estimated cost of $15-$23,000 per mile of road treated. Year 3 (2010): Secure funding and implement projects to treat roadside fuels.

5.6 Resource and Capability Enhancements

There are a number of resource and capability enhancements identified by the rural and wildland firefighting districts in Asotin County. All of the needs identified by the districts are in line with increasing the ability to respond to emergencies and are fully supported by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan committee.

Specific repeated themes of needed resources and capabilities include:

- Retention and recruitment of volunteers
- Update firefighting equipment countywide
- Improved road and house number signage
- Training and development of rural firefighters in structure and wildland fire

Although additional, and specific, needs were enumerated by the districts in Asotin County, these items were identified by multiple districts and in the public meetings. 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 countywide equity. However, the Blue Mountain RC&D may be an organization uniquely suited to work with all of the districts in Asotin County and adjacent counties to assist in the prioritization of needs across district and even county lines. Once prioritized, the Blue Mountain RC&D is in a position to assist these districts with identifying, competing for, and obtaining grants and equipment to meet these needs.

Table 5.4. Action Items for Firefighting Resource and Capability Enhancements.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.4.a: Enhance radio availability in each district, link in to existing dispatch, improve range within the region, and conversion to consistent standard of radio types.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioner's, Sheriff's Office, USFS, DNR, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Year 1 (2008): Summarize existing two-way radio capabilities and limitations. Identify costs to upgrade existing equipment and locate funding opportunities. Year 2 (2009): Acquire and install upgrades as needed.
5.4.b: Retention of volunteer firefighters.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioner's, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department. **Support:** Wildland fire agencies working with a broad base of County citizenry.	Target an increased recruitment (+10%) and retention (+20% longevity) of volunteers. Year 1 (2008): Develop incentives program and implement it.

Table 5.4. Action Items for Firefighting Resource and Capability Enhancements.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.4.c: Establish and map onsite water sources such as hydrants or underground storage tanks and drafting or dipping sites (e.g. Bennett Ridge, mouth of McGuire Canyon, along the Snake River, and Huber Gulch – see map in Appendix I).	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioner's Office, County GIS Department, USFS, DNR, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Year 1 (2008): Identify populated areas lacking sufficient water supplies and prepare project plans to develop a permanent water source or drafting/dipping sites. Implement project plans and begin mapping (GPS) known water sources and drafting/dipping sites to be provided to fire response agencies and County offices.
5.4.d: Increase training and capabilities of firefighters.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct fire fighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioner's, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department. **Support:** County Emergency Manager, DNR, BLM, and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural firefighting training.	Year 1 (2008): 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 (2008): Begin implementing training opportunities for volunteers.
5.4.e: Facility, land, and basic equipment for an additional station for the City of Asotin Fire Department.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** City of Asotin Fire Department	Year 1 (2008): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding and equipment (surplus) sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.
5.4.f: Support local efforts to gain fire protection services in currently unprotected areas.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Commissioners **Support:** Local residents, Asotin County Fire District #1, Washington DNR, USFS, and Washington Fish and Wildlife Service.	Year 1 (2008): Begin researching options and funding sources. Begin campaign to gain local support for the project. Year 1 or 3 (2008-09): Pick the best option based on availability and community support and begin implementing project plan.
5.4.g: Obtain a newer brush truck and a command vehicle for the City of Asotin Fire Department.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** City of Asotin Fire Department	Year 1 (2008): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding and equipment (surplus) sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.

Table 5.4. Action Items for Firefighting Resource and Capability Enhancements.

Action Item	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Timeline and Implementation Plan
5.4.h: Improve safety equipment and personal protective equipment for all fire districts in Asotin County.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioner's, USFS, local community organizations, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Year 1 (2008): Complete an inventory of all supplies held by the Fire Districts (boots, turnouts, Nomex, gloves, modern lighting, straps, and hardware), and complete a needs assessment matching expected replacement schedule. Develop Countywide re-supply process for needed equipment.
5.4.i: Support the maintenance and/or enhancement of state and federal firefighting programs and resources in Asotin County.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct wildland firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioners and Blue Mountain RC&D.	Ongoing: Provide community and County support for the State and Federal fire and firefighting programs within the County. Assist State and Federal fire programs raise awareness of wildland fire issues in local communities.
5.4.j: Facility, land, and basic equipment for an additional station for the Asotin County Fire District #1.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** Asotin County Fire District #1	Year 1 (2008): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding and equipment (surplus) sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.
5.4.k: Facility, land, and basic equipment for an additional station for the City of Clarkston Fire Department.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: High	**Lead:** City of Clarkston Fire Department	Year 1 (2008): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding and equipment (surplus) sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.
5.4.l: Purchase and set up a Reverse 911 system.	**Protection of people and structures** by improving notification time and improving landowner and firefighting agency communication. Priority: High	**Lead:** County Emergency Manager **Support:** County Commissioner's, Asotin County Fire District #1, City of Clarkston Fire Department, and City of Asotin Fire Department.	Year 1 (2008): Research potential options, develop budget, and locate funding, equipment, and software sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.
5.4.m: Obtain additional funding for the maintenance of the City of Clarkston Fire Department's utility truck, the department's sole wildland firefighting vehicle.	**Protection of people and structures** by direct firefighting capability enhancements. Priority: Medium	**Lead:** City of Clarkston Fire Department	Year 1 (2008): Verify stated need still exists, develop budget, and locate funding and equipment (surplus) sources. Year 1 or 2 (2008-09): Acquire and deliver needed materials and equipment.

5.7 Proposed Project Areas

5.7.1 Proposed Home Defensible Space Projects

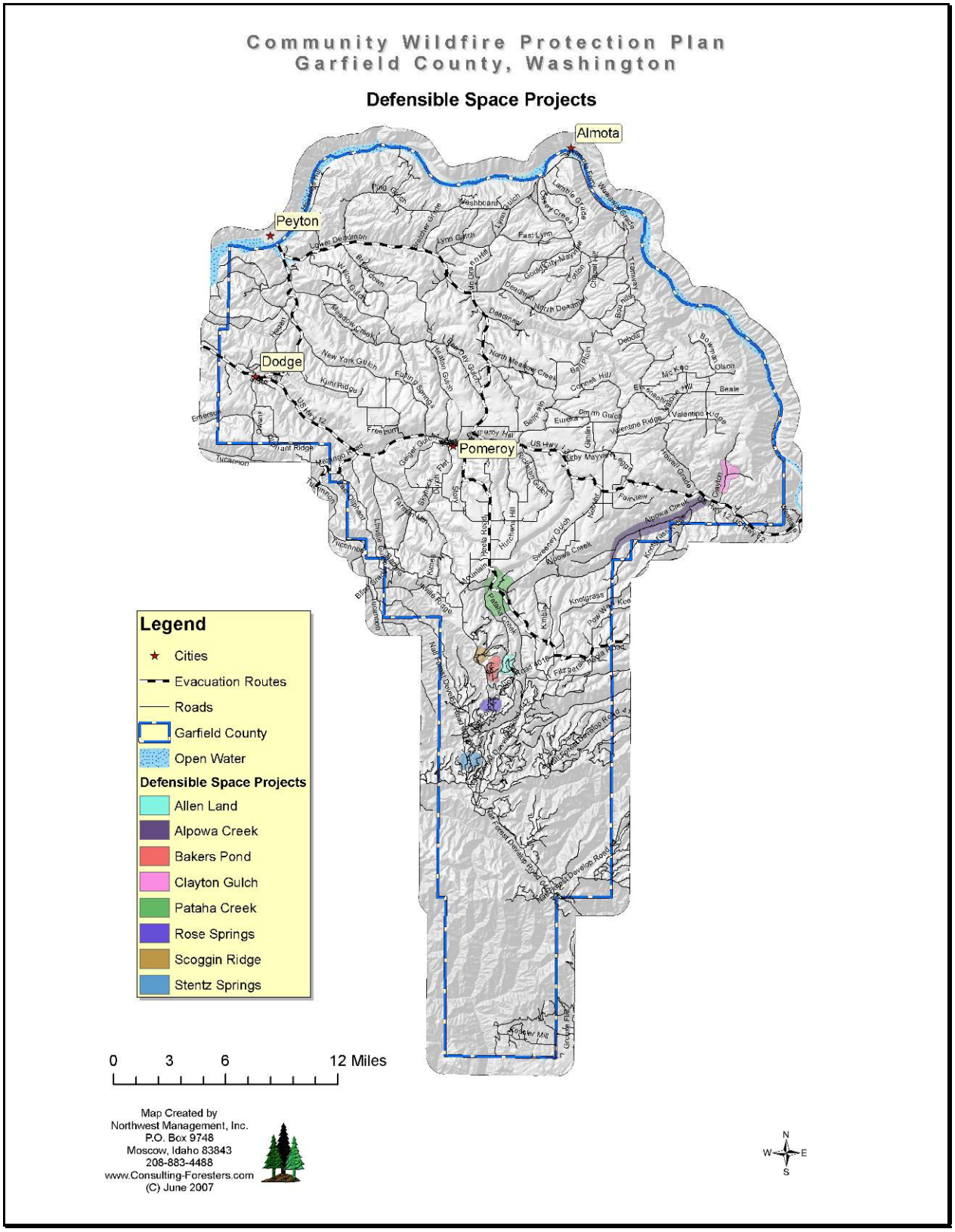
The following home defensible space project areas were identified by the CWPP planning committee as having multiple factors contributing to the potential wildfire risk to residents, homes, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. Treatments within the project areas will be site specific, but will likely include homeowner education, creation of a wildfire defensible space around structures, and access corridor improvements. Specific site conditions may call for other types of fuels reduction and fire mitigation techniques as well. The estimated project cost was calculated by assuming an average treatment cost of $400 per structure for non-forested areas and $1000 per structure in forested areas. It is also assumed that approximately 80% of the structures in the project area will be treated.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Asotin County Conservation District, and/or the Blue Mountain RC&D may take the lead on implementation of many of these projects; however, project boundaries were purposely drawn without regard to land ownership in order to capture the full breadth of the potential wildland fire risk. Coordination and participation by numerous landowners will be required for the successful implementation of the identified projects. Additional planning information on these projects is included in the Appendices.

Table 5.5. Proposed Home Defensible Space Project Areas.

Project Areas	Number of Structures	Estimated Project Cost	Priority Ranking
Amity Lane Defensible Space	12	$3,840	Medium
Anatone Defensible Space	251	$136,480	High
Asotin Creek Defensible Space	117	$68,800	High
Boggans Defensible Space	28	$8,960	Medium
Cloverland Defensible Space	52	$16,640	Medium
Highway 12 Corridor Defensible Space	88	$28,160	High
Joseph Creek Defensible Space	49	$15,680	Medium
Puffer Butte Defensible Space	29	$23,200	Medium
Snake River Defensible Space	140	$44,800	High
Sparrow Hawk Defensible Space	15	$4,800	Medium
West Clarkston Defensible Space	1,370	$438,400	High

Figure 5.1. Map of Proposed Home Defensible Space Projects



5.7.2 Proposed Community Defensible Zone Projects

The following community defensible zone projects were identified by the planning committee as high wildfire risk areas beyond the immediate vicinity of the home defensible space projects. The community defensible zone projects include common spaces or additional public or private property surrounding more densely populated areas.

The proposed community defensible zone projects are intended to treat high risk wildland fuels to an area extending beyond home defensible spaces, where steep slopes and high accumulations of risky fuels exist near homes and infrastructure. These projects should link home site treatments areas together. Community defensible zone treatments should target high risk concentrations of fuels and not necessarily 100% of the area identified. These projects should be completed only after or during home defensible space project implementation.

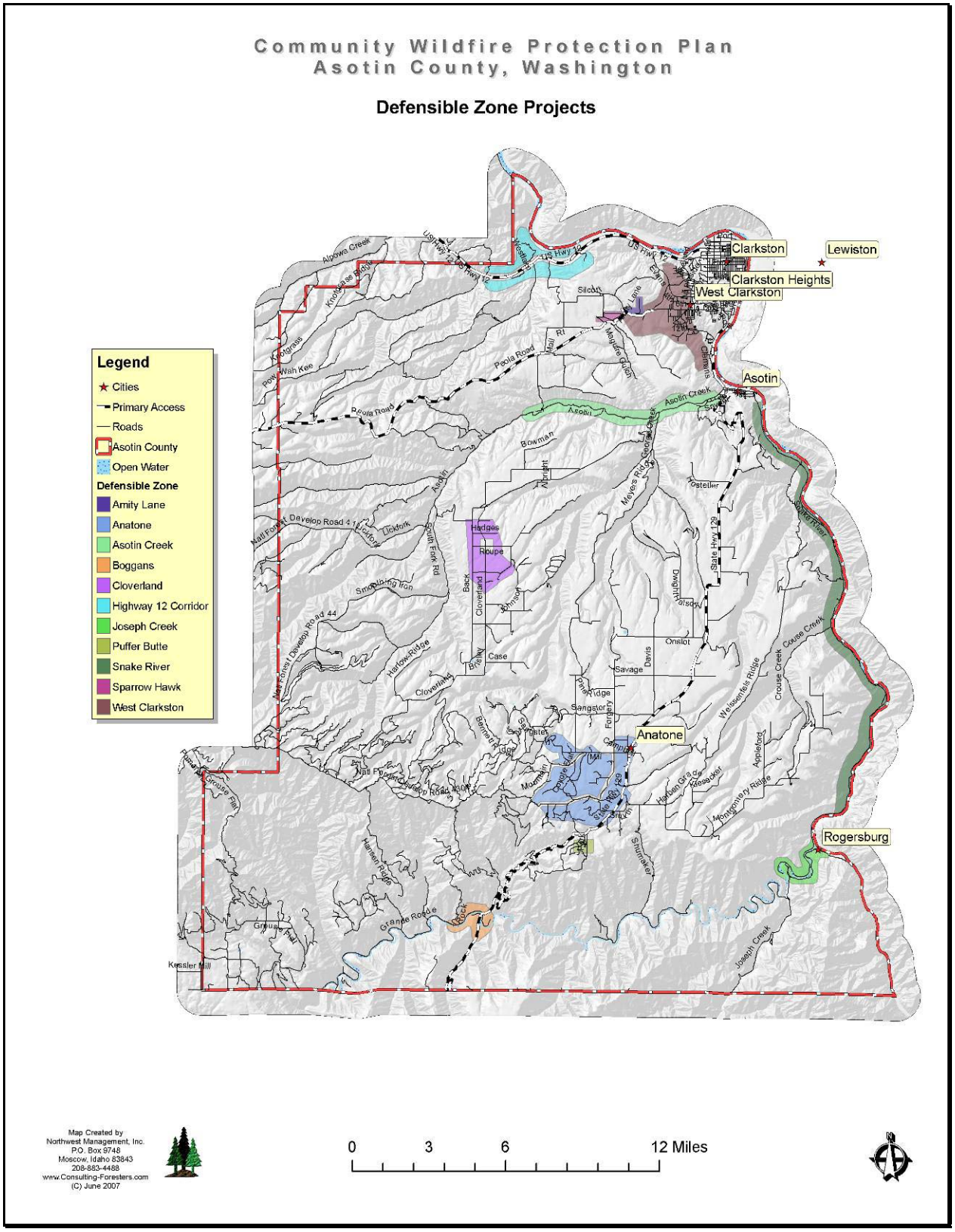
The estimated project costs were calculated based on treating an additional four acres per structure at approximately $200 per acre for non-forested areas and $700 per acre for forestlands. Cost estimates assume that no revenue was generated by the removal of timber or other product. It is also assumed that 80% of the structures in the project area will receive treatment. Community defensible zone projects may include, but are not limited to commercial or precommercial thinning, prescribed burning, installation of greenbelts or fuel breaks, and general forest health improvements.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Asotin County Conservation District, and/or the Blue Mountain RC&D may take the lead on implementation of many of these projects; however, project boundaries were purposely drawn without regard to land ownership in order to capture the full breadth of the potential wildland fire risk. Coordination and participation by numerous landowners will be required for the successful implementation of the identified projects. Additional planning information on these projects is included in the Appendices.

Table 5.6. Proposed Community Defensible Zone Project Areas.

Project Areas	Total Treated Acres	Estimated Project Cost	Priority Ranking
Amity Lane Defensible Zone	38	$	High
Anatone Defensible Zone	803	$	Medium
Asotin Creek Defensible Zone	688	$	Medium
Boggans Defensible Zone	90	$	Medium
Cloverland Defensible Zone	166	$	Medium
Hwy 12 Corridor Defensible Zone	282	$	Medium
Joseph Creek Defensible Zone	157	$	Medium
Puffer Butte Defensible Zone	93	$	Medium
Snake River Defensible Zone	448	$	Medium
Sparrow Hawk Defensible Zone	48	$	Medium
West Clarkston Defensible Zone	4,384	$	High

Figure 5.2. Map of Proposed Community Defensible Zone Projects



5.7.3 Proposed Fuels Reduction Projects

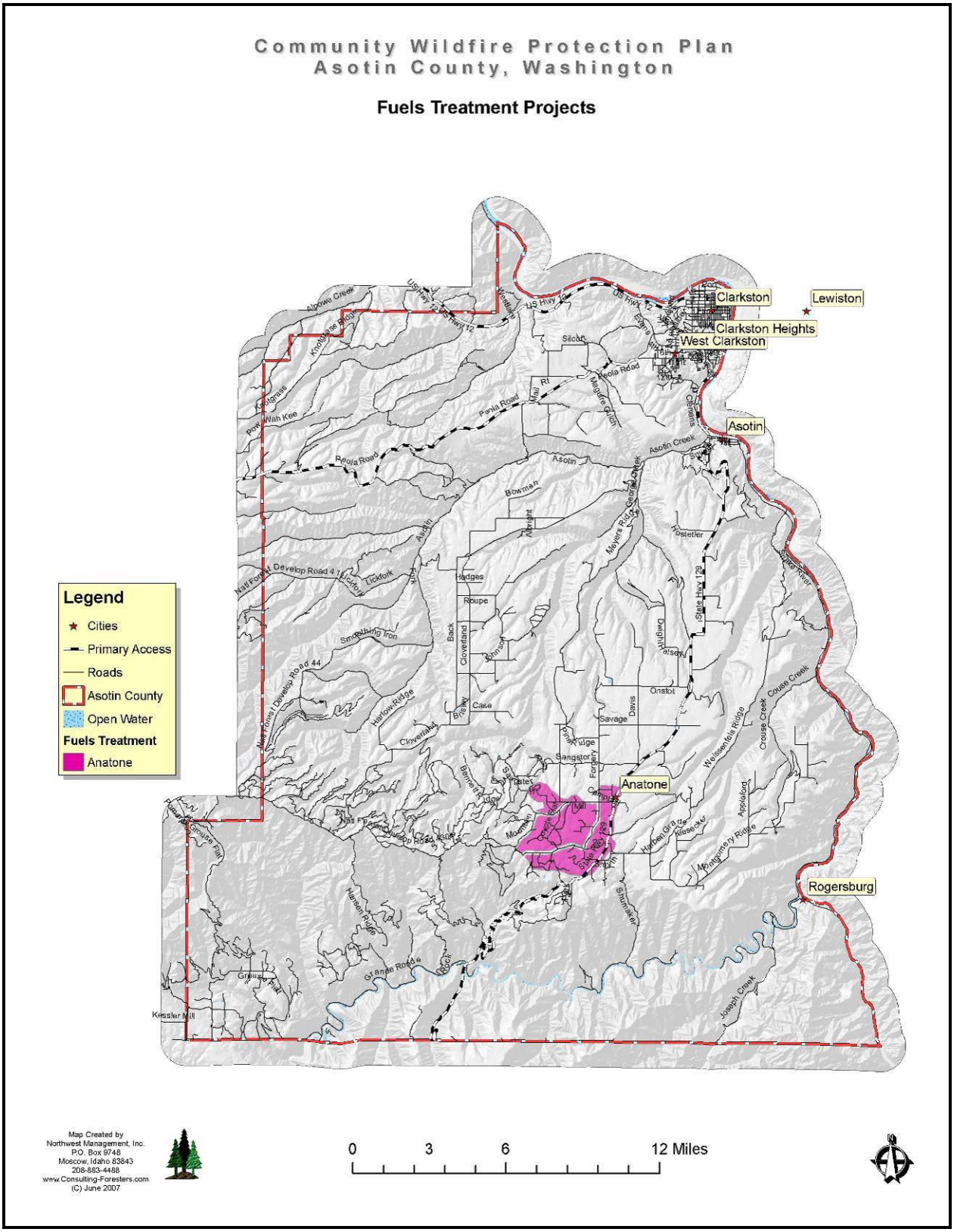
The following proposed fuels reduction projects were identified by the planning committee to be specific areas at high risk to wildfire due not only to the forest fuels, but also due to increased likelihood of an ignition. High use recreational areas or industrial operations in or near forestland fuels have an increased likelihood of an ignition from human or mechanical sources. The proposed fuel reduction projects will likely include more general fuels treatments such as forest health improvements in the surrounding area in conjunction with enhanced fire safety precautions. Installation of escape proof fire pits, barbeque stands, designated trails, and restricted use of fireworks can help reduce the ignition risk in recreational areas, while having numerous fire extinguishers on site and creating a maintained fuel break between mechanical operations and forestlands can decrease the ignition risk in industrialized areas.

The estimated project cost was based on $200 per acre of treatment. Cost estimates assume that no revenue was generated by the removal of timber or other product. The Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Asotin County Conservation District, and/or the Blue Mountain RC&D may take the lead on implementation of many of these projects; however, project boundaries were purposely drawn without regard to land ownership in order to capture the full breadth of the potential wildland fire risk. Coordination and participation by numerous landowners may be required for the successful implementation of the identified projects.

Table 5.7. Proposed Fuels Reduction Project Areas.

Projects Areas	Total Acres	Estimated Project Cost	Priority Ranking
Anatone Fuels Reduction	5,704	$1,140,800	Medium

Figure 5.3. Map of Proposed Fuels Reduction Projects



5.7.4 Proposed Roadside Fuels Treatment Projects

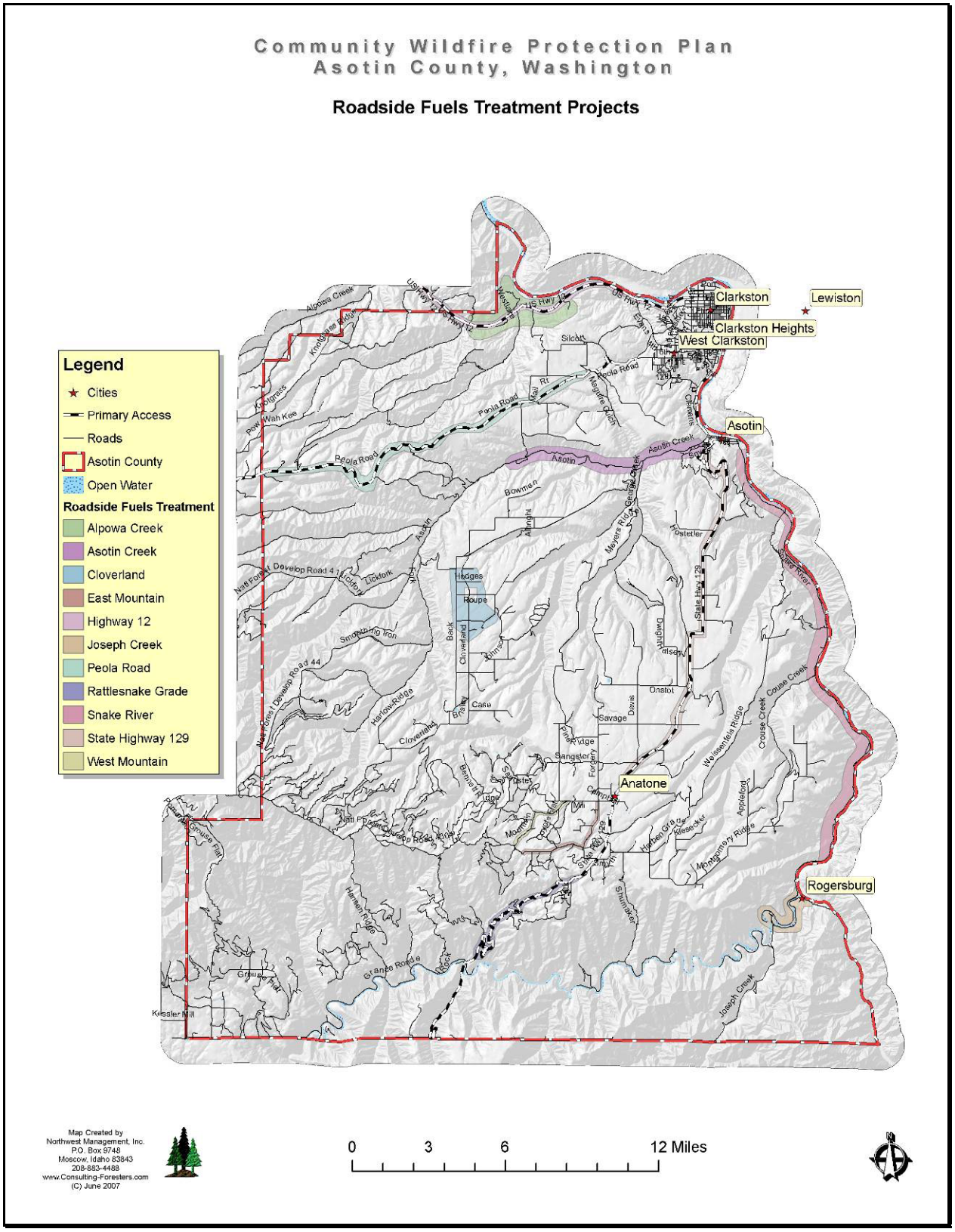
The proposed roadside fuels treatment projects are access corridors identified by the planning committee as being potentially unsafe for both ingress by emergency responders and egress in the event of an emergency evacuation due to wildfire. Treatments within the project areas will be site specific, but will likely include precommercial or commercial thinning within 200 feet from each side of the road, herbicide applications, and brush removal with the intent to create a fuel break along the road corridor. Prescriptions may include more intense removal of trees and other vegetation within 5 to 100 feet of the road and reduced intensity removal farther out. This technique will help lessen the intensity of a wildfire and may bring a crown fire to the ground before it reaches the road. Specific site conditions may call for other types of fuels reduction and fire mitigation techniques as well. Furthermore, in many areas, it may also be necessary to conduct additional environmental analyses before project implementation. The estimated project cost was calculated by assuming an average treatment cost of $700 per acre of treatment.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Asotin County Conservation District, and/or the Blue Mountain RC&D may take the lead on implementation of many of these projects; however, project boundaries were purposely drawn without regard to land ownership in order to capture the full breadth of the potential wildland fire risk. Coordination and participation by numerous landowners will be required for the successful implementation of the identified projects. Additional planning information on these projects is included in the Appendices.

Table 5.8. Proposed Roadside Fuels Treatment Projects.

Roadside Fuels Treatments	Approximate Acres	Estimated Project Cost	Priority Ranking
Alpowa Creek Roadside Fuels (excluding Highway 12)	207	$144,847	High
Asotin Creek Roadside Fuels	582	$407,318	High
Cloverland Roadside Fuels	451	$315,579	Medium
East Mountain Roadside Fuels	253	$177,211	Medium
Highway 12 Roadside Fuels	622	$435,125	High
Joseph Creek Roadside Fuels	414	$290,002	Medium
Peola Roadside Fuels	832	$582,633	Medium
Rattlesnake Grade Roadside Fuels	558	$390,702	Medium
Snake River Roadside Fuels	1,006	$703,998	High
State Highway 129 Roadside Fuels	924	$646,610	Medium
West Mountain Roadside Fuels	168	$117,316	Medium

Figure 5.4. Map of Proposed Roadside Fuels Treatment Projects



5.8 Regional Land Management Recommendations

Reference has been given to the role that forestry, grazing and agriculture have in promoting wildfire mitigation services through active management. Asotin County is a rural county by any measure. It is dominated by wide expanses of forest and rangelands intermixed with communities and rural houses.

Wildfires will continue to ignite and burn 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, State Parks, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service, industrial forestland owners, private forestland owners, and all agricultural landowners in the region to actively manage their wildland-urban interface lands in a manner consistent with reducing fuels and risks.

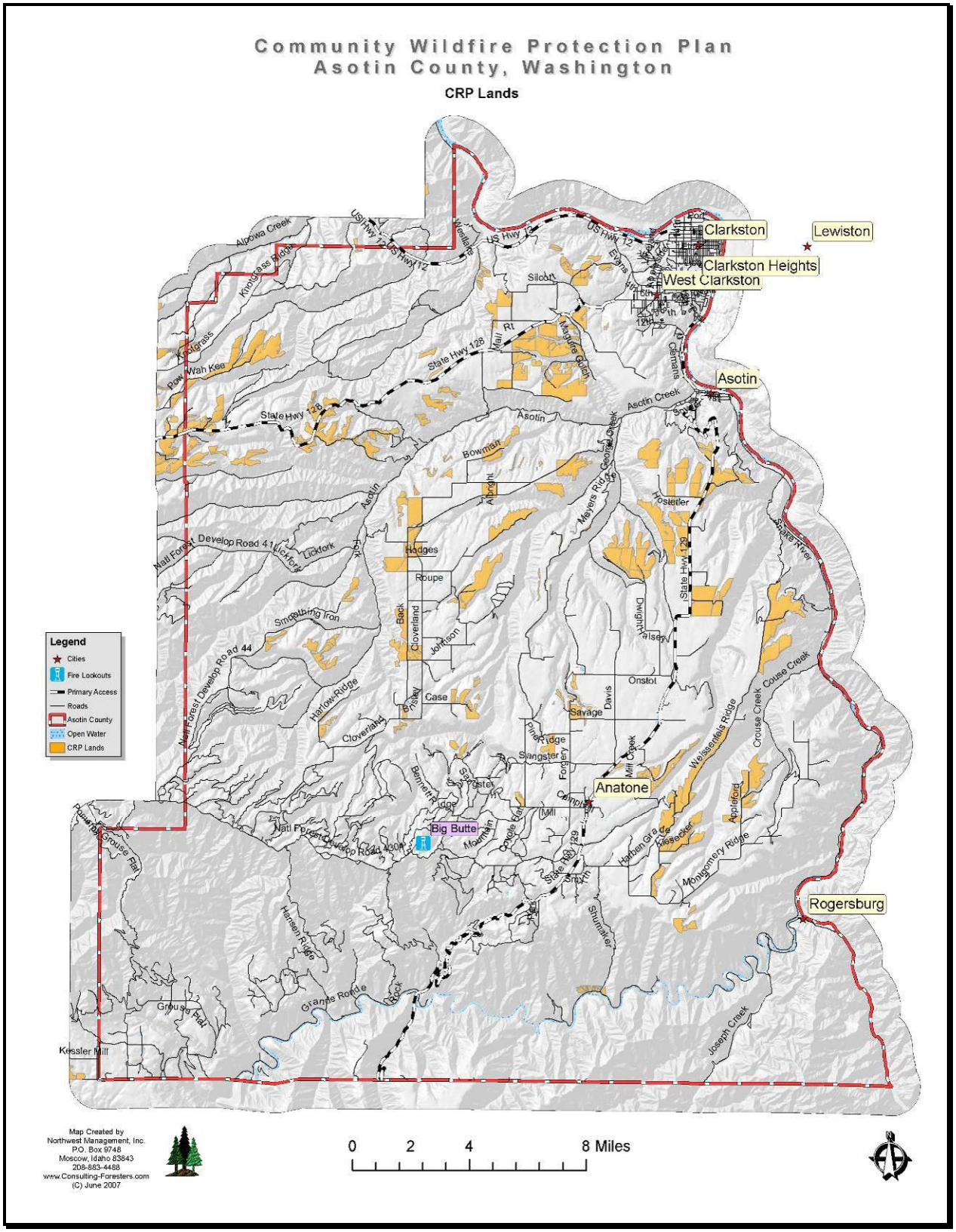
The following sections help identify were some of the land management agencies in Asotin County have planned, current, or proposed fuel reduction projects. Where possible, these projects have also been mapped and are presented in Appendix I. Knowing where agency projects are located can help this committee as well as other agencies prioritize their own fuels reduction projects. Simultaneous fuels reduction projects occurring on adjacent properties is not only encouraged, but this can also help cut down on costs.

5.8.1 Conservation Reserve Program

The fire hazard associated with the abundant Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands has become a prominent issue for all fire departments and emergency personnel in Asotin County. Wildlife habitat tends to influence the priorities for management on CRP more than wildland fire due to the need for abundant plant biomass for upland game bird populations and other wildlife. The lack of specific fuels management activities has resulted in the build up of a dense mat of highly flammable fuels as fields sit in fallow. Fires in this fuel type burns at very high intensities with large flame lengths, particularly under the influence of the strong winds common in Asotin County. Once ignited, CRP fires can burn very rapidly, jumping roads and other barriers that would normally inhibit a natural range or grass fire. Recently, uncontrolled CRP fires have burned hundreds of acres and threatened countless homes and critical infrastructure such as main highways and power poles in Washington.

It is the recommendation of this plan that Asotin County work with the Farm Services Agency to improve landowner's ability to manage fuels on CRP land, particularly around homes, roadways, and to create fuel breaks in large, contiguous tracts. Potential treatment options may include, but are not limited to, rotational grazing, haying, prescribed fire, and/or tilling. Asotin County believes active management will reduce the fire risk associated with these fuels and cut down on the number of CRP fires responded to each year. This is especially critical on those acres adjacent to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure.

Figure 5.5. Map of Conservation Reserve Program Acres in Asotin County.



5.8.2 USDA Forest Service Projects

The following scheduled Pomeroy Ranger District projects are in various stages of planning. All of the listed projects must still be developed using the appropriate environmental documentation and public participation processes.

Charley Creek Winter Range Prescribed Fire Project

The intent of this burn entry is to reduce decadent grass and shrub in critical elk winter range, and increase quantity and quality of elk forage. This prescribed fire project was also designed to reduce natural fuel loadings.

Charley 5 Prescribed Fire, Charley 3 Prescribed Fire, Charley 4 Prescribed Fire

This project was designed to reduce activity slash created from the Charley Timber Sale, and reduce natural fuel loadings adjacent to Charley Timber Sale Units.

Hairpin Prescribed Fire

The intent of this project is to underburn remaining harvest slash and surrounding natural fuels within the Lick Timber Sale Area. Objectives are to reduce post-harvest activity fuels, and improve wildlife forage.

Dryfork Prescribed Fire

This project is combination of Forest Service and DNR land. The project was designed to underburn remaining harvest slash in the Lick Timber Sale Area on Forest Service land. Adjacent Forest Service natural fuels areas and DNR land was included to reduce build-up of natural hazardous fuels, and to secure holding lines. Other resource objectives for this are to remove descendant grass and shrubs, to increase growth and palatability of elk forage.

Great Ridge Prescribed Fire

This project designed to reduce ground and ladder fuels, reduce timber stand densities, improve wildlife forage and reduce noxious weeds. The intent of this prescribed fire entry is to 1) burn decadent grass and shrubs to encourage new growth and reproduction of palatable forage for wildlife, and decrease noxious weed populations and seed dispersal; 2) reduce accumulations of down woody fuels and ladder fuels to reduce potential for large scale wildfire and probability of active crown fire; and 3) reduce tree stand densities to improve stand health and susceptibility to disease and wildfire.

Red Hill Prescribed Fire Project

The objective of this project is to reduce activity harvest slash from Red Hill Timber Sale units and in surrounding natural fuels areas reduces ground fuel accumulations, reduce decadent grass and shrubs, decrease tree stand densities and reducing ladder fuels.

South/George Vegetation Management Project

No details on this project yet. It is the very early stages of planning. It will include timber harvest and fuels reduction projects, such as thinning from below, hand and mechanical, and prescribed fire.

Sweeney Timber Sale and Big Fire Timber Sale

These timber sales are part of the Upper Charley Subwatershed Ecosystem Restoration Project. They are currently being harvested. After harvest is complete, and units are released we will begin planning prescribed fire projects to reduce the activity slash created from the timber sale.

Skyline Danger Tree Removal Project

Columbia Complex fires spread across approximately 39,000 acres of the Pomeroy Ranger District. Effects from the fires varied widely from light underburn in some areas to areas of intense fire activity where almost all trees were killed. During fire suppression efforts, trees that posed an imminent danger were removed, however, additional standing dead, dying, and unsound green trees that represent a safety threat to the public and Forest Service personnel (both in and outside the burn footprint) are evident. In addition to areas affected by the fire, there are additional areas of danger trees outside the footprint of the fire.

Road Name	Road Number	Miles
Kendall Skyline Road	4600000	15.9
Twin Buttes Road	4600300	5.4
Slickear Recreation Residences	4600301	1.6
Godman-Teepee	4608000	6.4
	Total Miles	**29.3**

The following list of roads are schedule to receive operational maintenance. These are Level 2 roads designed for high clearance vehicles.

Road Number	Miles	Road Number	Miles
4600030	1.4	4600175	0.2
4600035	0.2	4608073	0.3
4600036	0.2	4608080	0.5
4600050	0.4	4608085	0.2
4600052	0.8	4608090	0.8
4600065	0.4	4608100	0.1
4600100	0.1	4608130	0.7
4600120	0.3	4608140	0.6
4600152	0.3	4610000	2.6
4600157	0.6	4610010	0.1
4600160	2.1	4610025	0.2
4600170	0.1	4610030	0.2
Total Miles	**6.9**	**Total Miles**	**6.5**

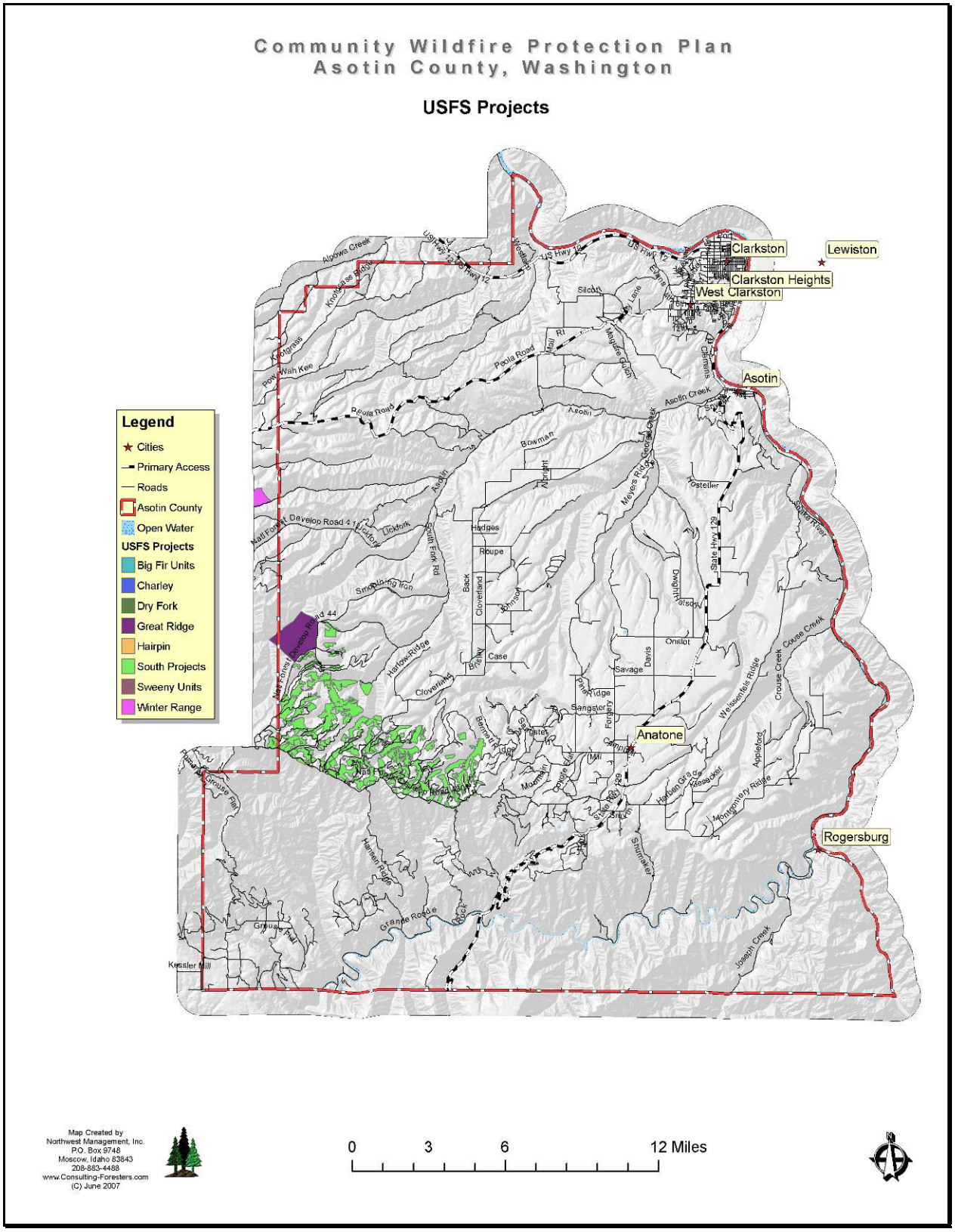



Figure 5.6. Planned Pomeroy Ranger District Projects in Asotin County.