

Squilchuck Valley Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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Prepared by
Chelan County Conservation District
with assistance from the
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1. Introduction

Citizens of the Squilchuck Valley area of Chelan County have been concerned about the effects of wildfire for some time. Recent fires initiated local residents and County Commissioners to join together to proactively plan and implement actions to protect lives, protect their community and reduce the risk of future wildfire related disasters.

Vision and Goals

The citizens of Squilchuck Valley value their homes, woods and privacy. Their overarching aim is to protect life and property of the community, its members, and essential infrastructure from fire through outreach, strategic planning and action.

The primary goal of the Squilchuck Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to identify and implement projects that will protect people in the CWPP area, including residents, and firefighters and emergency personnel, from injury or loss of life. The secondary goal is to minimize or eliminate damage or loss of property and essential infrastructure due to wildfire.

In an effort to remain true to the environment that the citizens of the Squilchuck Valley live in, all options for the utilization of biomass produced from fuels reduction projects will be pursued.

Community Awareness

The community of Squilchuck Valley is very aware of the need to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This summer after the Fisher fire the local newspaper published a story about the current fire situation in Chelan County that focused on, in part, the Squilchuck Valley. The group hopes to provide an example that other communities in Chelan County can apply to their areas. The Squilchuck Valley landowners have provided the community energy, input and guidance essential for the creation of this document. Additionally, it is the hope of the Squilchuck Valley community that residents of the area will start (or continue) efforts to make their properties “Fire Wise” and implement defensible space.

Values

The citizens of Squilchuck Valley value their homes, woods and privacy. They want to improve the safety of their community, and have already conducted work parties to implement fuels reduction efforts around homes of people who could not perform the task themselves. They also want to provide input on land management decisions for adjacent Federal and State lands.

2. Planning Area

The Squilchuck CWPP area is approximately 21,860 acres and lies south of the City of Wenatchee in Chelan County, Washington (see Squilchuck CWPP Area Map, Page 6). The entire area within the planning area boundary is considered the Wildland/Urban Interface.

Areas within the Squilchuck Valley area are further defined by drainages and include: Pitcher Canyon, Halverson Canyon, Hampton Canyon, Forest Ridge, Wenatchee Heights, Squilchuck,

Beehive, and Whispering Ridge. Also located in the planning area are Squilchuck State Park and the Mission Ridge Ski area.

About 14% (3016 acres) of the area is federally owned, while state owned lands compose approximately 1% (1,933 acres). Residential development on private lands within the Squilchuck Valley area is rural in nature. A few residential developments exist in the planning area, but most homes are either scattered throughout and separated by large areas of open forest, patches of dense forest, and grass or sagebrush or concentrated along the bottoms of the drainages.

General Description of the Area

The Squilchuck Road is a main artery to the areas of Wenatchee Heights, Pitcher Canyon, Halverson Canyon and Forest Ridge subdivision. The Squilchuck Road extends from Mission Street approximately (8) miles southwest of Wenatchee to Mission Ridge Road. The subdivisions will be difficult to evacuate and defend in the event of a fast moving wildland fire.

Very few home sites include adequate defensible space, and “common areas” (areas within and adjacent to the communities and individual homes) within the Squilchuck Creek basin are stocked with medium to heavy fuels. Fuel types are generally grass and sagebrush types in the lower slopes grading to open pine stands and then to mixed conifer types, with mature spruce/fir and some pine on the ridges and upper slopes.

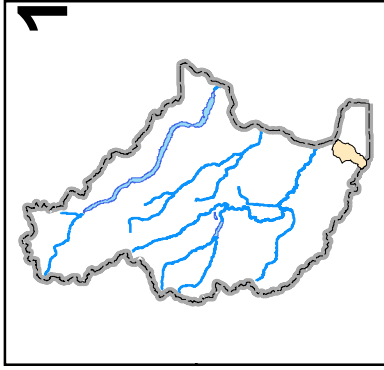
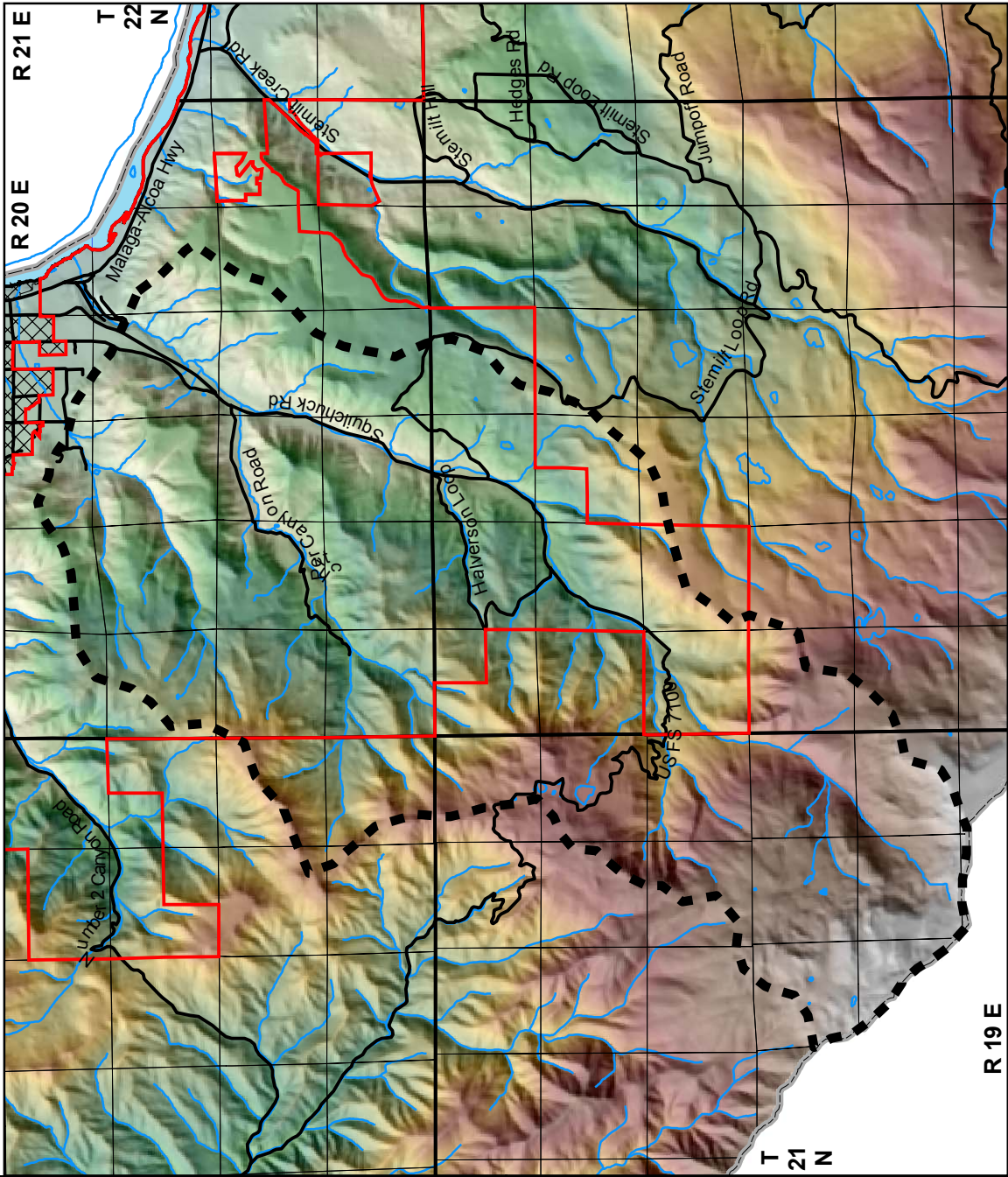
There is a mixture of overhead and underground power service and public domestic water system serves the Squilchuck Valley area.

General description of existing subdivisions

Pitcher Canyon Road – This area consists of homes, which are spread out and have “one way in one way out”. This area consists of newer homes at the beginning of Pitcher Canyon and older homes towards the end of the roadway. Most of the newer homes have a defensible space, with a few having shake roofs. Some of the older homes have a defensible space, but a few do not. Hydrants are throughout the area until the pavement ends. Electrical is provided to the area underground lines. A fair number of homeowners have livestock evacuation of it could be a factor.

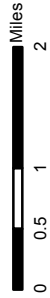
Halverson Canyon – (Includes Hampton Road.) This area consists of older homes which are spread out and most have an adequate defensible space while others do not. There are common areas that are not maintained and have higher fuel loads that could pose problems. There are no hydrants throughout the area. Halverson Road ties into Hampton Road and both can be accessed off of Squilchuck Road. Electrical power is either above or below ground and livestock could be a factor.

Squilchuck Community Wildfire Protection Planning Area



Legend

- County boundary
- Fire Dist. No. 1
- Squilchuck CWPP area
- City of Wenatchee
- Roads
- Streams



Note: CWPP boundary created by WDNR using topography
 Hillshade generated using WDNR 30m DEM
 All other data provided by Chelan County GIS
 Map by Chelan County Conservation District
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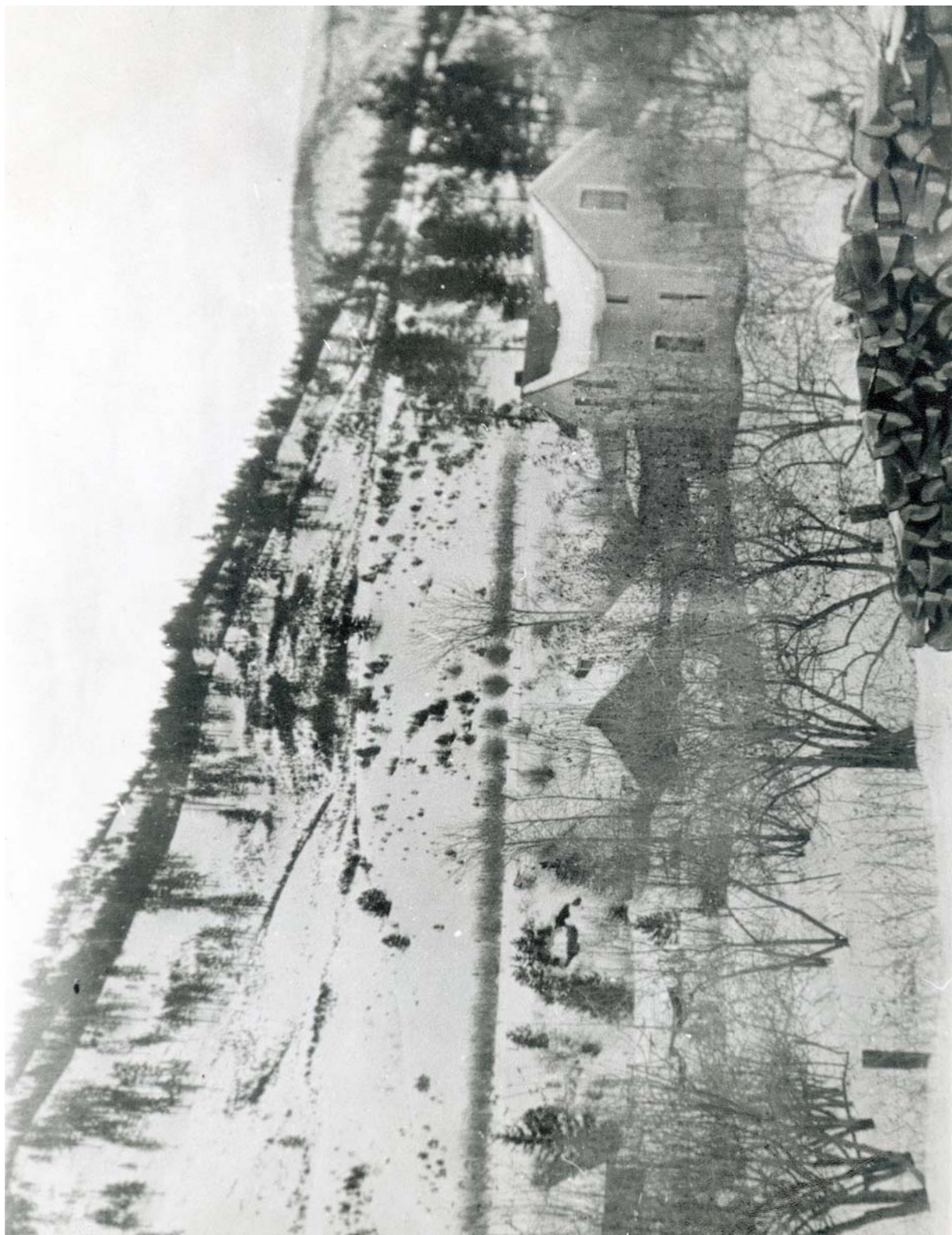
Wenatchee Heights – (Includes Whispering Ridge, Canyon View Place, Wheeler Road, Meeks Road, Jim Smith Road, Conarty Road, Jagla Road, Cherry Road, Bohart Road, Steinbach Road, Gudmundson Road, Edgemont Road, Grubb Road, Stemilt Loop Road.)

This area consists of older and newer homes, which are spread out. Most homes on the perimeter of this area do not have an adequate defensible space. Most homes in the area have composition, metal or wood roofing materials. Electrical power is either above or below ground. Hydrants are located throughout the area with the exception of Stemilt Loop Road. There is more than one way out. Wenatchee Heights road ties into Stemilt Loop Road. There are common areas that are not maintained so the grass, sagebrush and heavy timber can be a factor. Livestock could be a factor.

Forest Ridge – (Includes Forest Ridge Drive, Alder Court, Tamarack Place, Summit View Place, Pinehurst Place, Fircrest Place.)

This area mainly consists of large homes located within heavily forested area with some home having little or no defensible space. At any given time there may be homes under construction. The homes in the area have tile, composition, or wood roofing materials. A large percentage of homes have wood shake roofing. Access to the subdivision is described as “one way in one way out”. Hydrants are throughout the area. There is a PUD pumping station. There is overhead power at the bottom of the subdivision, but most power service is underground.

The general areas listed above are the locations with the highest house density in the planning area and were not developed (with the exception of Forest Ridge) in the traditional subdivision method.



View of the Squilchuck Valley near road mile 5.5 in the early 1910s



View of the Squilchuck Valley near road mile 5.5 in January 2005.

3. Planning Process

Process and Partners

In 2004 the community organized themselves to develop a plan to address fuel loads on private lands and educate the landowners of the planning area about the risk of fires.

Education of landowners in the planning area began through one-on-one contact, through the work parties and at larger community gatherings. Several landowners from the planning area attended FireWise workshops that talked about the benefits of defensible space and videos of the philosophy were shared with many property owners. Plans to create large contiguous areas of shaded canopy fuel breaks were begun for the larger forested areas immediately adjacent to homes. The shaded canopy fuel breaks were planned for the forested areas based on the classification of those areas as having a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 3. The homeowners in the planning area were urged to clean up around their homes and drive ways and forest lands. Specifically, homeowners were provided with FireWise information on how to create defensible space around their homes.

As individual projects were implemented to reduce the fuel loads in the Squilchuck Valley area, it was recognized that a broader approach that dealt with all aspects of safety should be used. This resulted in the decision to develop an overall Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Squilchuck Valley area. A community meeting was organized and a broad cross-section of stakeholders including citizens, local elected officials, representatives from Chelan County Fire District No. 1, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, utility companies, Emergency Medical Service, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) representatives and property owners attended and discussed the feasibility of creating such a plan.

The Squilchuck Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan is the result of these locally-led efforts and partnership between private, local, state and federal interests. The Squilchuck Valley CWPP serves as part of the foundation of the County-wide community wildfire protection plan that is currently being developed. By basing the County-wide plan on individual CWPP's, such as the Squilchuck Valley plan, the goals, objectives and recommended projects will be developed by and remain specific to each community (See Section 7. Mitigation Action Plan)

4. Assessment

Existing Information

A substantial amount of data is already available from several sources. Primary fire planning information/GIS data used in this plan came from Chelan County Fire District No. 1 (structure protection plan and evacuation plan, etc.), USFS Leavenworth Ranger District (large fire history, some vegetation information), and WDNR (historic/potential vegetation, topography, fire cause statistics). *Note: Portions of this document include intellectual property of the Department of Natural Resources and are used herein by permission. Copyright 2004, Washington State Department of Natural Resources. All Rights Reserved.*

Vegetation

A fair amount of difference in the vegetation exists between the lower part of the Squilchuck Valley (Pitcher Canyon, etc.) which are dominated by sagebrush and grass, to areas dominated by orchard trees (Wenatchee Heights) with pockets of trees and sagebrush, to the upper parts of the Valley which are dominated by thick forest.

Historically, upper draws and ridge top areas supported both pure stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*/PIPO) and mixed conifer/ PIPO dominated stands of age classes ranging from seedling to very large diameter. Fescue-wheatgrass and sagebrush-bitterbrush habitats dominated the non-forested portion of the landscape (see Historic/Potential Natural Vegetation map on page 12).

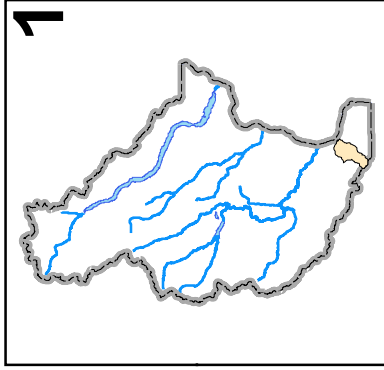
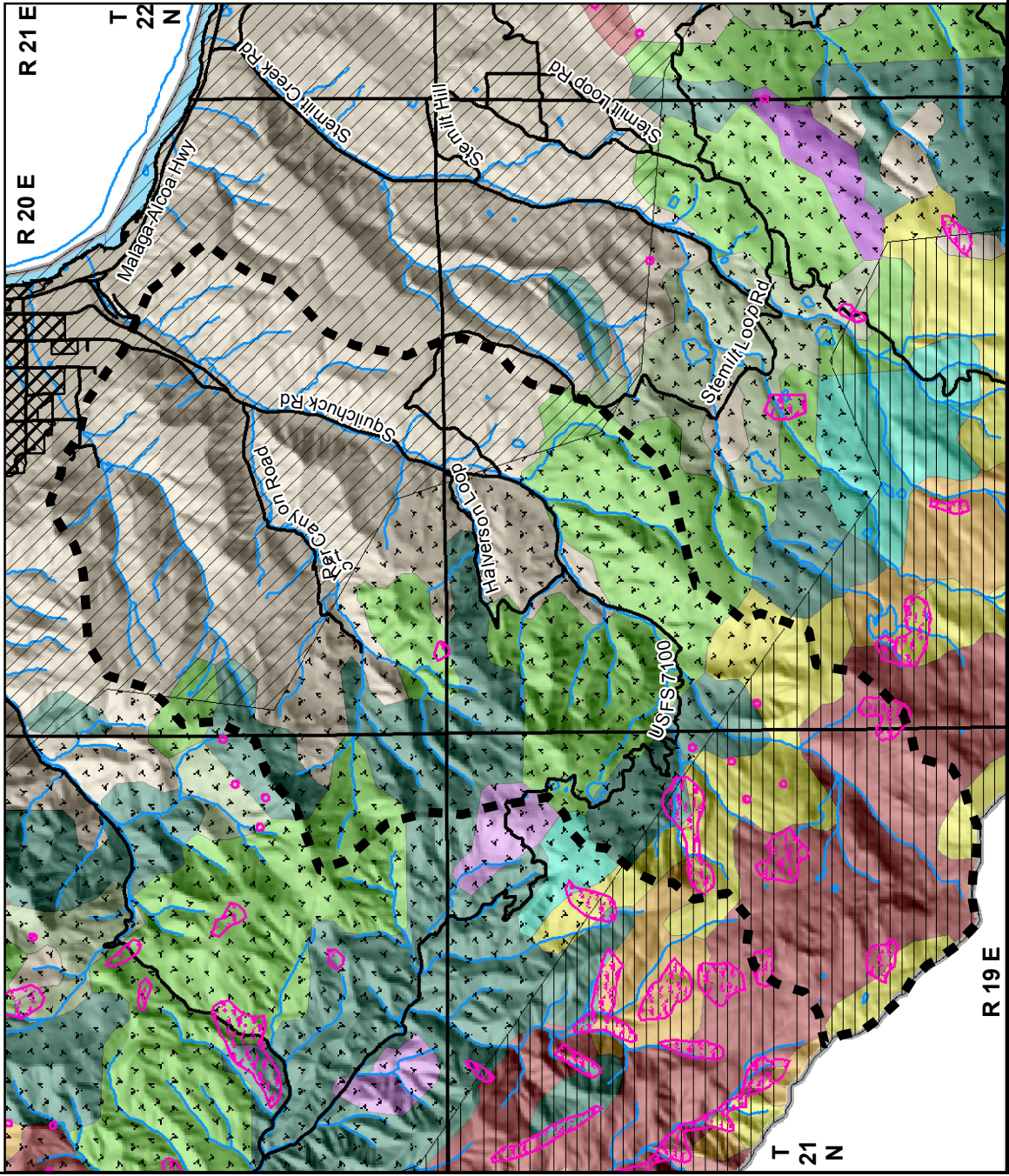
Currently, the primary vegetation type for the Squilchuck Valley area is ponderosa pine dry forest. Ponderosa pine is a shade intolerant species naturally adapted to survive in areas that experience fire on a regular basis (i.e. frequent fire regime, fire interval every 2-20 years for lower Wenatchee valley). Fire plays a major role in how ponderosa pine is established and sustained on the landscape. Regular burning allows PIPO stands to flourish by removing underbrush and smaller competing trees. As the pines mature their bark thickens and their lower branches are self-pruned, which also makes them better adapted in a fire environment. Older, pure ponderosa pine stands often have a wide, open, park-like feel with scattered large trees (12-25/acre) with a grass and scattered brush species understory. Fire also provides benefit by providing a mosaic of microhabitats across the landscape by creating openings, snag patches, and opportunities for a variety of plant species. The resulting increase in vegetative diversity benefits wildlife, as well as forest health/disease resistance.

When the natural fire regime is altered (primarily through fire suppression) ponderosa pine stands become denser. Shading and competition will inhibit the growth of PIPO and allow more shade tolerant species, such as Douglas fir, to become established along with other underbrush species. This overstocked condition will produce vertical and horizontal fuel profile continuities which often result in stand replacement fires. Additionally, denser stands are often more susceptible to the spread of insects and disease which provide more dead fuels. Frequent fire regimes (with fires at intervals of 0-35 years) become unstable as fire frequency is disrupted (e.g. by fire suppression). These forest types rely on the dynamics of fire to lower competition amongst species, keep areas of disease and insects in check and clean up the dead and downed materials (fuel). If there are no fires in a 0-70 year period to manipulate the dry forest, the forest

is considered in a Condition Class II. No fires over a longer period produce a densely stocked stand of pines and shade tolerant species which often results in stand replacement fires. This Condition Class III situation will result in the loss of forest cover, damage to watersheds, altered wildlife habitat, and potential soil damage when the inevitable uncharacteristic high intensity fire occurs. Most of the forested areas in the Squilchuck drainage are in Condition Classes II and III.

The forest types on the upper slopes and ridges are composed of more shade tolerant species (e.g. true firs) and have fire regimes that experience fire on longer fire return intervals (35-100 years). Most of these forests are in Condition Classes I and II where fire has not been suppressed so long as to significantly destabilize their character. Thinnings may be warranted in an effort to emulate fire as a process and increase the area conducive to lower intensity fires that allow access to fire suppression forces. Thinnings and prescribed burning activities have already taken place in the Beehive, Pendleton, and Number Two Canyon areas which are within or adjacent to the Squilchuck Planning area in an attempt to lower the trend of increasing fuels.

Squilchuck CWPP Area Historic and Potential Natural Vegetation



Legend

- Bugs and disease, 2003 survey

Historic Vegetation

- Balsam Fir-Min Hem-Upper Slope Types, Large
- Balsam Fir-Min Hem-Upper Slope Types, Small
- Subalpine and Non-commercial
- Pure Ponderosa Pine, Large
- Ponderosa Pine, Large
- Ponderosa Pine, Small
- Ponderosa Pine, Seeding-Sapling-Pole
- Pine Mix, Large
- Pine Mix, Small

Potential Natural Vegetation

- Douglas fir forest
- Fir-hemlock forest
- Sagebrush steppe

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Note: CWPP boundary created by WDNR using topography

Hillshade generated using WDNR 30m DEM

All other data provided by Chelan County GIS

Map by Chelan County Conservation District

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Fire Ecology

Weather, topography, and fuels affect wildfire behavior. The Squilchuck Valley CWPP area, like other areas of Chelan County, is prone to severe weather conditions that can support extreme fire behavior. The landscape has many valleys with steep slopes and dense stands dominated by ponderosa pine, which are primarily less than 18 inches in diameter. Many stands have closed canopies and abundant ladder fuels. Continuous, tall underbrush also predominates. Insect infestations of mountain pine beetle and/or fir engraver beetle are becoming more prevalent.

Since the weather and topography of a community cannot be changed, the best approach to minimize the risk to people and potential property losses is to modify and/or reduce fuels surrounding the home, as well as at the landscape level. Fuels treatments within and adjacent to a community can improve safety for fire fighters, help overall fire suppression efforts be successful, and reduce potential risk/damage to individual structures/property. Wildlife habitat benefits can also be gained through fuels reduction and natural vegetation restoration projects.

Fire History

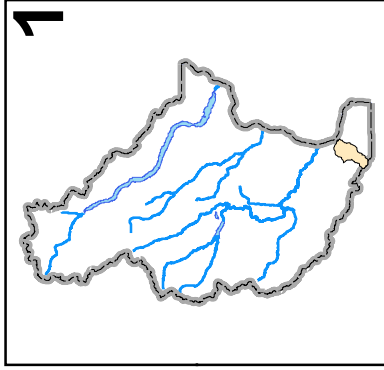
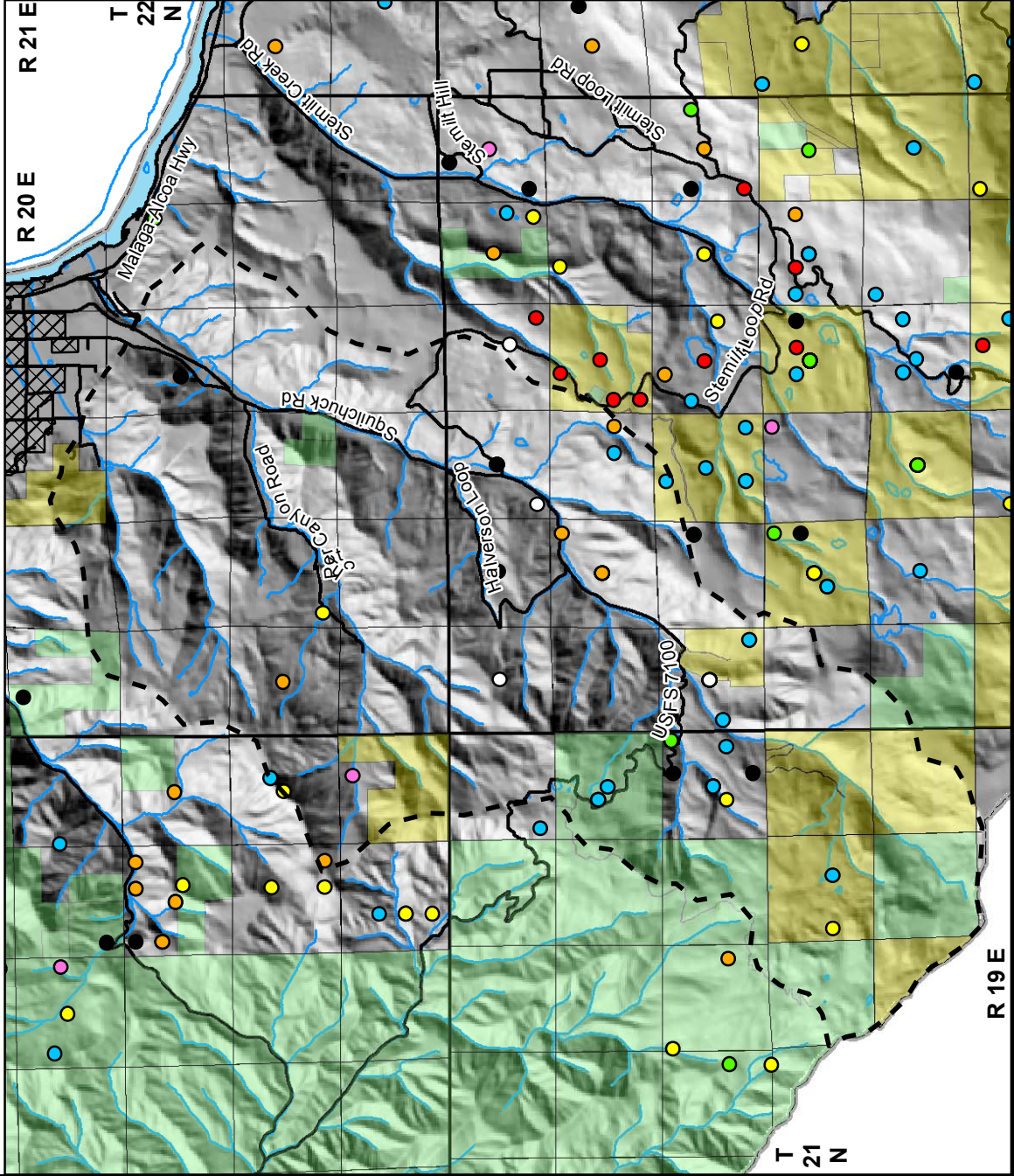
Fires are started naturally by lightning in the Squilchuck Valley area every few years, but they are also often started as a result of other causes, such as recreation (campfires) and debris burning (Fire History map on page 14 for summary and location of fire starts). The size of the fires may vary, but typically small fires of a few to several acres occur on a 5-10 year interval. Large fires have not been experienced in the planning area in nearly 100 years but conditions are conducive to a large, high severity fire.

General Fire Behavior Potential

The Squilchuck Creek area subdivisions are adjacent to areas of grass and sagebrush ground fuels on the lower slopes. The mid to upper slopes are more heavily forested. The green common areas adjacent are similar in nature. Fire may move rapidly through these common areas with the potential for spotting highest in the adjacent forested areas and could be difficult to manage if wind is a factor. These brush and dense forest fuel types could produce fast moving fires when driven by steep slopes or sustained winds. The threat would soon be in all areas of the subdivisions with fire potential to involve all structures.

Approximately 25% of the homes in this area have wood shake roofs. Shakes are easily lofted, and represent an excellent firebrand source for starting new spot fires. Should structures become involved; spotting potential from the structures themselves will be significant.

Squilchuck CWPP Area General Fire Causes



Legend

- Squilchuck CWPP
- Wenatchee

General Fire Causes

- CHILDREN
- DEBRIS BURNING
- INCENDIARY
- LIGHTNING
- LOGGING OR EQUIPMENT USE
- MISCELLANEOUS
- RECREATION
- SMOKER

Public Land Ownership

- Federal
- State

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Fuels/Hazards

The WDNR has classified the Squilchuck Valley area as a ‘high risk’ Wildland/Urban Interface community. Past activities such as logging and fire suppression have altered the normal fire regime, stand species composition and forest health. Dense, overstocked stands of trees are increasing the fire hazard in the Squilchuck Valley CWPP area. Many stands of ponderosa pine are dominated by trees less than 18 inches in diameter. Pockets of trees are being affected by low level (~0.3 to 4.5 trees/acre) infestation by mountain pine beetle and/or fir engraver (WDNR GIS; see previous Vegetation map). Trees often have contiguous crowns and adjacent ladder fuels, and continuous tall underbrush also predominates on the landscape. All of these variables provide a continuous fuel profile which can create conditions for an intense and fast moving fire.

Protection Capabilities

Chelan County Fire District #1 provides fire protection for private lands in the Squilchuck Valley area, and through interagency agreements, provide initial attack response to state and federal lands as well. The WDNR and USFS are the primary agencies responsible for management of fires on public lands.

The objective of the Squilchuck Creek structure protection plan is to safely and efficiently manage resources to protect life, property and resources in the event of an approaching wildland fire. Strategy decisions should take into account the following tactical considerations:

1. Common areas have heavily forested pockets with some steep slopes. Fire may move rapidly through common areas with torching, crowning and spotting. Lower slopes have light flashy fuels, mainly grass and sagebrush. Fire may move rapidly through common areas with potential for spotting across lines.
2. Most homes would require maximum effort to defend, requiring prompt activation of this plan and the need to triage structures.
3. Access to area subdivisions is described as “one way in one way out”. Traffic control and apparatus staging and placement must be carefully considered.
4. The homes range from average to very large with approximately 50% of the homes in the area having composition or wood roofing materials.
5. A community water system with hydrants does exist, however a water shuttle using water tenders may be necessary to support engines.
6. Chelan County Fire District #1 and its cooperators cannot assemble enough structure protection resources to simultaneously protect all residential structures in the area. Successful defense will require structural triage, time for pre-treatment and/or highly mobile tactics, and burnout operations.
7. Resources from the state and federal wildland cooperators will be necessary to implement the strategies described here.

Structural Vulnerability

Residences within the Squilchuck Valley CWPP are widely dispersed and often woven into the forest landscape. Accessibility, topography, and the surrounding vegetation all contribute to each structure's fire risk. Actions implemented in the Mitigation Action Plan portion of this plan primarily address improving the ability of structures to be defended during wildfires.

Key Contacts

Organization	Contact	Phone Number
Chelan County Fire District #1	Main Station RiverCom	(O) (509) 662-4734 911 or (509) 663-9911
Chelan County Fire District #1 Administration	Chief Randy Johnson Asst Chief Phil Mosher Asst Chief Gerry Speck	(O) (509) 662-4734 (C) (509) 679-9799 (H) (509) 662-3927 (O) (509) 662-4734 (C) (509) 679-9780 (H) (509) 662-4520 (O) (509) 662-4734 (C) (509) 679-9781 (H) (509) 663-4633
Chelan County Sheriff	Sheriff Mike Harum RiverCom	(O) (509) 667-6851 (C) (509) 630-1700 911 or (509) 667-6851
Leavenworth Ranger District (USFS)	FMO Keith Satterfield	(509) 548-6977
Central WA Interagency Comm. Center (CWICC)		(O) (509) 662-4393
Chelan County P.U.D.		(O) (509) 663-8121 (E) (877) 783-8123

5. Risk Evaluation

An area risk assessment was completed by WDNR (NFP-299 area risk assessment) that grouped the area rather than analyzing risk to individual structures. The fire risk assessment for Squilchuck Valley ranked the area as high.

Access

Squilchuck Valley Road is the only designated emergency evacuation route and it is oriented in a north-south direction. Due to the topography of the area, all other main roads are orientated primarily in a north and south direction. Not all roads in the CWPP area are paved or in suitable condition for fire equipment. Therefore, road access has been identified as a concern. The lack of improved roads that could serve for emergency evacuations in an east to west direction has been identified as a need.

Evacuation

The Squilchuck Creek area will need to be evacuated early if a fire is approaching. The primary route is the Squilchuck Road.

Staging Area for Tactical Resources

If a fire threatens the Squilchuck Creek area subdivisions, Chelan County Fire District #1 will provide first response with mutual aid resources available throughout the county. These resources may respond to a pre-designated staging area.

Staging area options include;

Lincoln Park Circle

Station 13 1836 South Mission

Beehive Grange 4000 block Squilchuck Road

Station 14 4852 Squilchuck Road

Command Post Locations

Chelan County Fire District One Main Station, 206 Easy Street

Main Office (509) 662-4734

Second Line (509) 662-4735

Third Line (509) 662-3247

Fourth Line (509) 662-9717

Main Fax (509) 663-3967

Secondary Fax (509) 663-9640

Mission View Elementary School, 60 Terminal Avenue

Mission View Elementary School (509) 663-5851

Wenatchee School District (509) 663-8161

Beehive Grange 4000 block Squilchuck Road

Water Supplies

The location of water sources available for fire fighting efforts have been identified. Water sources are primarily surface water withdrawal sites located on private land. Private residences with reservoirs that could be filled with water for firefighting have also been identified.

Fuel Breaks and Safety Zones

An immediate primary treatment goal in the CWPP area is the creation of 200-foot wide shaded fuel breaks adjacent to all federally managed lands in the planning area. Specifically, shaded canopy fuel breaks are planned for Boy Scout, Sawyer Trust land (Section 13) and State Park property (see Planned and Proposed Projects map on Page 20).

In the event of a fire, the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society will work with landowners to find a safe location for livestock as well as domestic animals for homeowners who can not take their animals with them. Additionally, Squilchuck State Park has been identified as a location that can accommodate livestock in the event of a wildfire.

6. Current Activities

Protection Measures

Fire protection for the Squilchuck Valley area is provided by Chelan County Fire District #1. Depending on location within the planning area, response times average 10-15 minutes.

Existing Procedures

Landowners have already organized themselves and implemented community types of projects that have reduced the fuel loads around individual homes. Grant funds have been applied for through the Washington Department of Natural Resources for larger fuels reduction projects and shaded fuel breaks. A new section of 200-foot wide fuel break is being proposed for creation on private lands adjacent to federal lands (see Squilchuck Valley CWPP Planned and Proposed Project map on page 20).

Project Proposals

Currently, grant applications (project proposals) are pending for three general categories; shaded fuel breaks (fuel compartmentalizing within each drainage), ecosystem thinning (treating non commercial timber lands within the drainage), and education (as determined by community).

Coordination with Forest Service Activities

In order to maximize the fuels reduction work planned for private land, it would be desirable for complementary complimentary projects to take place on adjacent Forest Service managed lands in and adjacent to Squilchuck Valley. Specifically, Beehive EA, 1993 and Pendleton EA 1997 identified fuels reduction work to be implemented. While landscape scale treatments are being undertaken in the Pendleton, Number Two Canyon, and Beehive areas previously and currently, opportunities exist for future additive treatments. The CWPP is recognized as the instrument necessary to organize and educate the public to further encourage and suggest design of such future projects.

Landowner Committees

Several landowner committees were established during the development of the Squilchuck Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The committees consist of education, communication, Prevention/Fuel Reduction, and Biosolid Elimination.

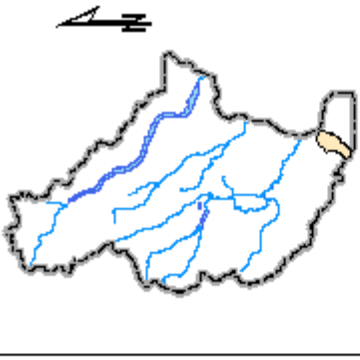
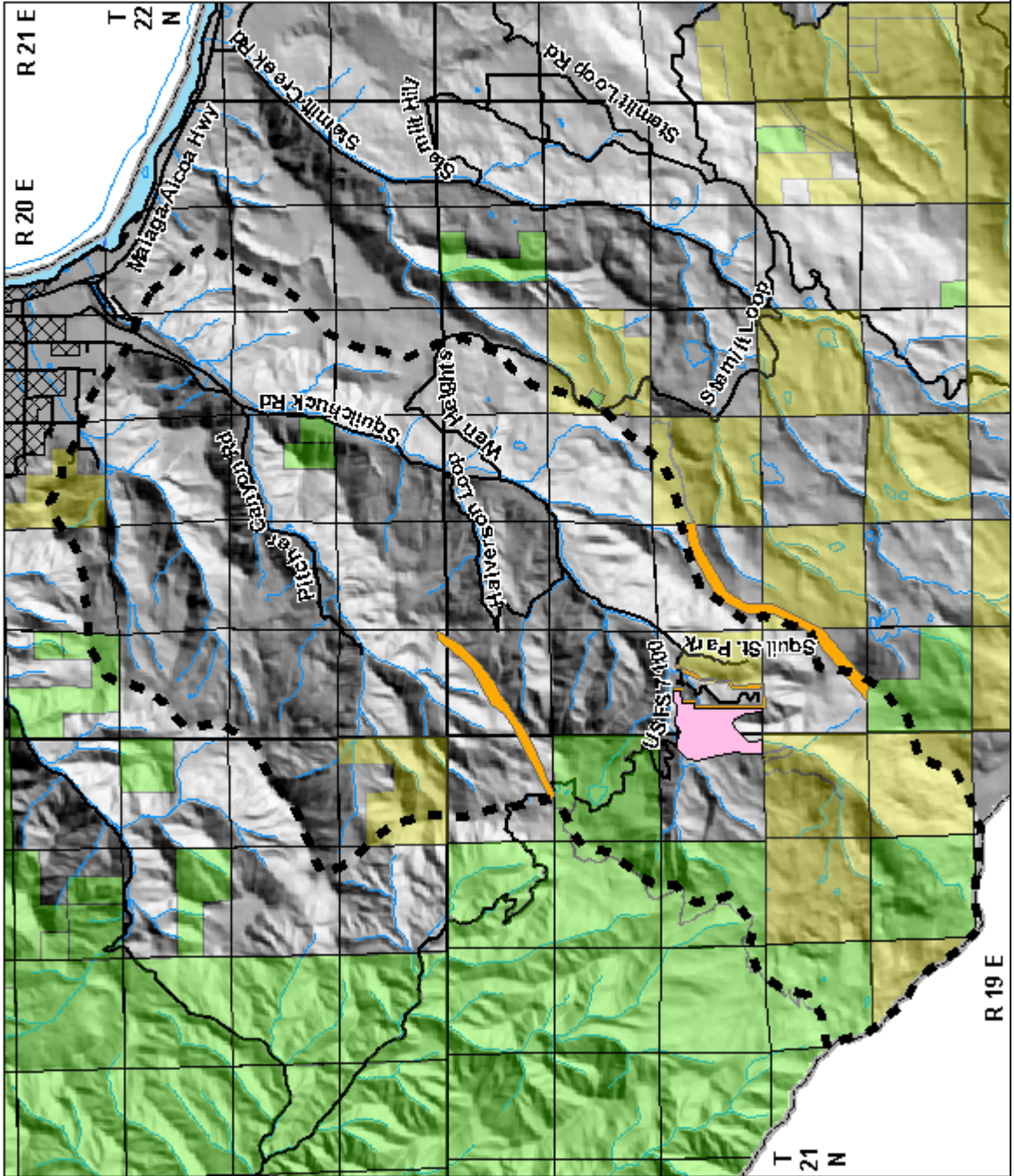
The Education Committee would be responsible for various aspects of providing information to landowners to allow them to be knowledgeable about fire related issues. Specifically, this committee could continue with providing the FireWise presentations and workshops, providing homeowners with the resources for identifying risks at homes, working to restart the volunteer firefighter program in the Squilchuck Valley, website development and maintenance, working with the Squilchuck State Park to create exhibits, signage.

The Communications Committee would be responsible for providing accurate and immediate information to other landowners and appropriate emergency personnel in the event of an emergency. This committee would consist of a primary communication officer and primary contacts for each area.

The Prevention/Fuels Reduction Committee would be responsible for investigating and prioritizing projects that either improves wild fire prevention or reduces fuels in the Squilchuck Valley. Focus of this committee will originate from the communities contained in the planning area outward toward and within adjacent federal and state lands.

The Landowner Steering Committee will continue to be responsible for investigating a means to utilize the material generated from fuels reduction projects in the planning area. This group would also be responsible for prioritizing, monitoring existing and proposing future projects that reduce the fuel loads in the Squilchuck Valley and improves conditions around homes to survive wildfires. Future grants would, most likely, be coordinated with and submitted through an appropriate group or agency. In addition, this group will review and update this plan with appropriate agencies at least once every year with direction and assistance from Chelan County Fire District 1 and the Chelan County Conservation District.

Squilchuck CWPP Area Planned and Proposed Projects



Legend

- Squilchuck CWPP
- Wenatchee

Project Status

- Fuels reduction planned for 2005
- Shaded fuel breaks proposed for 2005

Public Land Ownership

- Federal
- State

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Map CWPP boundary created by WDCNR using topography

Mapshade generated using WDCNR 30m DEM. All other data provided by Oregon County GIS

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7. Mitigation Action Plan

The priority project of the Squilchuck Valley landowners is to establish shaded canopy fuel breaks throughout the CWPP. Particular attention should be placed on federally managed lands adjacent to private property, Section 13, State Park and Boy Scout lands (see Squilchuck Valley CWPP Planned and Proposed Projects map on page 21 for specific locations). Grant applications to fund the shaded canopy fuel breaks have been applied for by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The objective of the proposed projects is to help reduce the potential of a wildfire moving from these lands onto private lands and vice versa. The shaded canopy fuel break will be located in the Wildland/Urban Interface area of private lands adjacent to Forest Service, State Park, Section 13 or Boy Scout managed lands. The next priority of the Squilchuck Valley landowners is to reduce the risk to individual structures. The third priority is education of the landowners in the project area. Finally the ongoing maintenance and continuing education of the work done and environment in the project area will complete the mitigation action plan.

The Squilchuck Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan has three main categories of mitigation actions: Fuels Reduction, Education/Outreach, and Improving Prevention in the Wildland/Urban Interface. Natural Vegetation/Habitat Restoration is incorporated into the Fuels Reduction projects. Recommendations by category are provided below. The recommendations are listed in order of priority under each category.

The recommendations will then be prioritized by the Squilchuck landowner Steering Committee and the top ten items will be put into an action plan and funding will be sought to implement these projects. Additionally, the top item will be recognized as the highest priority project for the Squilchuck Valley landowners.

Fuels Reduction (listed in order of priority)

- Create 200 foot wide “shaded canopy fuel breaks” on land adjacent to federal lands in the planning area.
- Implement FireWise recommendations within 200 feet of all homes/structures. Actions can include defensible space, adequate turn-around space for emergency equipment and clear consistent address signs.
- Treat vegetation within 100 feet of roads and driveways. This can include shaded canopy defensible space on both sides with road signs and evacuation arrows.
- Develop and maintain additional Safe Areas in strategic locations.
- Encourage adjacent landowners and agencies to perform complementary adjacent treatments.
- Ecosystem thinning on non commercial ground.

Education/Outreach (listed in order of priority)

- Risk Assessments – Conduct risk assessments of individual structures and implement recommendations of prescriptions identified in the assessment.

- Develop Community Signs: Create strong messages indicating that we are a Residential, FireWise / Blockwatch Community -- size(s), placement, and quantity -- propose to Community
 - 'Entrance' to Squilchuck Valley – strong, all-encompassing message
 - Fire Danger Levels
 - 'Burn Ban' in effect – clearly point out the implications (the danger and penalties involved)
 - General: No Public Campgrounds/No Burning/No Campfires/Use Ashtrays, etc.
 - What to do if smoke or fire is detected: e.g., “Report signs of Smoke or Fire Immediately Call 911” (or perhaps establish with the local telephone company an easy-to-remember, quick dial directly to the Chelan County Fire District #1 station, such as: “Dial #FIRE”)
 - Utilize scanners by Specific people (top of phone tree) as solid source of information before initiating phone tree
- Compile Essential FireWise Information: Information that all ‘at-fire-risk’ residents & landowners *need to know*
 - For distribution to:
 - Squilchuck Valley residents
 - Neighboring fire-risk communities
 - Focusing on:
 - Individual responsibilities & residential and personal security, i.e., creating defensible spaces; landscaping in fire country; creating fire breaks, FireWise construction materials, visible house numbers, etc.
 - Individual preparedness: How to create a Personal Emergency Action Plan: Personal escape routes; disaster supply list; personal communication plan
 - What to do & what NOT to do in case of Wildfire: Protecting your home/land
 - Interacting with local Firefighting officials
- Public Outreach: Compile General FireWise Information -- Target Awareness
 - Alert the general public to the fire risks in our area and repercussions to the entire community
 - Specify how we can work together
 - Outline specific measures/projects/tasks for disseminating information; determining audience, etc.
 - Fundraising if/when necessary
 - Create maps showing roads, safe areas, water supply, evacuation routes, and fire tools locations
- Act as Liaison with public:
 - Distribute information about Squilchuck Valley’s initiatives to media and surrounding communities
 - Serve as liaison with Fire-fighting agencies
 - Organize Fire Education Meetings
 - Create a Firewise Community Block watch program to monitor safety practices

- Encourage active participation of Squilchuck Valley and neighboring residents to come together to promote community safety

Improve Prevention/Suppression Capabilities in the Wildland/Urban Interface

- Establish Local Volunteer Firefighters recruit and train Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers for the Squilchuck Valley.
- Emergency Safety Issues
 - Address coordination
 - Road Signs
 - Escape routes
 - Evacuation plans
 - Safe Areas
- Reservoir at Mission Ridge Ski area - Investigate if this is identified in Master Ski Area Plan and do what is possible to support its construction for the purpose of providing water in the event of a wildfire during the non winter months.
- Address coordination - Chelan county is in the process of assigning addresses in Squilchuck Valley, which when completed will allow for the development of mapping the area. After completion of address assignments we suggest the following.
 - Standardize location of address signs.
 - Standardize appearance of signs?
- Contact person at Chelan County responsible for assigning addresses to assist and verify correct information.
- Road signs - Develop uniformity of all road signs and install signs at strategic locations. Sign design will meet County and State (if appropriate) requirements.
 - Location
 - Size and type of lettering.
 - Mounting heights.
 - Special signage (i.e. dead ends, curves, fire risk area, FireWise block watch community etc.).
- Evacuation - Develop warning systems and safe escape routes, including the following:
 - Mark exit routes on maps. (may require Fire Dept involvement)
 - Make directional emergency exit signs. (may require State and County involvement)
 - Procure and install warning siren.
 - Contact radio station for possible help with emergency information.
 - Make signs saying in case of emergency tune your radio to **KPQ 560 AM.**
 - Make road barriers.
 - Develop monitoring plan (this could be emergency radio frequency)
 - Develop signage for special conditions (medical assistance, elderly)
 - Develop plan to deal with livestock.
- Safe areas of refuge - Continue to identify and prepare areas that would be the safest to go to in case evacuation routes are not accessible.
 - Define safe area (discuss with Fire Dept).

- Identify safe areas on maps.
 - Shelters (identify requirements)
 - Supplies (identify requirements)
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- Structural Vulnerability - Residences within the Squilchuck Valley CWPP are widely dispersed and often woven into the forest landscape. Accessibility, topography, and the surrounding vegetation all contribute to each structure's fire risk. Actions implemented in the Mitigation Action Plan portion of this plan primarily address improving the ability of structures to be defended during wildfires.