

Swauk Basin Wildfire Protection Plan

January 2005

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan

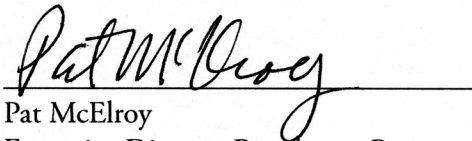
Prepared by

Local Homeowners

with assistance from

Kittitas County Fire District #7, Kittitas County Fire Marshall, Kittitas County Sheriff,
Washington State Department of Natural Resources, United States Forest Service and
the United States Bureau of Land Management

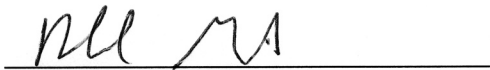
Approvals:



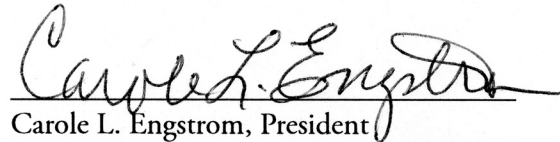
Pat McElroy
Executive Director Regulatory Programs
Washington State Forester
Washington State Department of Natural Resources



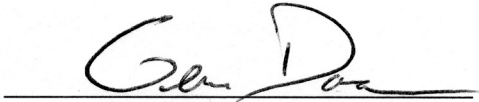
Alan A Crankovich
Kittitas County Commissioner
District #2



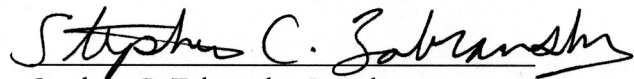
Derald Gaidos
Kittitas County Fire Marshall



Carole L. Engstrom, President
Historic Liberty Homeowners Association



Gene Dana
Kittitas County Sheriff



Stephen C. Zabransky, President
Liberty Mountain Ownership Association



Paul Blume, Chief
Kittitas County Fire District #7

Liberty, WA 98922
January 31, 2005

Mr. Mark Gray
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
1111 Washington St. SE, Suite 440
Olympia, WA 98501-2283

Dear Mr. Gray:

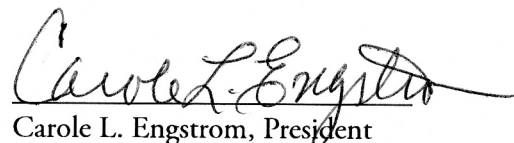
Enclosed is a copy of the Swauk Basin Wildfire Protection Plan prepared by homeowners in a heavily forested area within and adjacent to the Wenatchee National Forest. The planning process started in the summer of 2004 when Department of Natural Resources personnel suggested the area could benefit from a coordinated plan to reduce wildfire risk. Two community meetings were held in the Liberty Community Hall with local homeowners, Kittitas County Fire District #7, County Fire Marshall, County Sheriff, Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management representatives attending. It was decided that local homeowners write the plan with assistance from the government agencies. That is what was done.

With assistance from the County Assessor's Office a list of every homeowner in the basin was obtained so that each can be contacted and urged to participate in the effort to reduce wildfire risk. The plan includes a description of wildfire behavior and an explanation of how government agencies would fight a fire so that every homeowner will understand and appreciate the unpredictable nature of a wildfire. Every homeowner in the Basin will be given a copy of the plan and asked to participate actively in reducing wildfire risk.

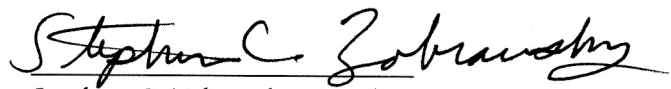
The plan is designed to promote a sense of community not only between homeowners but also between homeowners and government agencies. A history of the area is included giving all homeowners and government agencies a picture of their shared past. The plan reinforces a sense of neighborhood where people know each other and watch out for the other's safety, a challenge when two thirds of the homeowners live somewhere else. There are only two formal associations in the Swauk Basin, the Historical Liberty Homeowners Association, and the Liberty Mountain Ownership Association, and they both have taken an active role in creating the plan.

We look forward to working with the Department of Natural Resources in implementing and improving the plan.

Sincerely,



Carole L. Engstrom, President
Historic Liberty Homeowners Association



Stephen C. Zabransky, President
Liberty Mountain Ownership Association