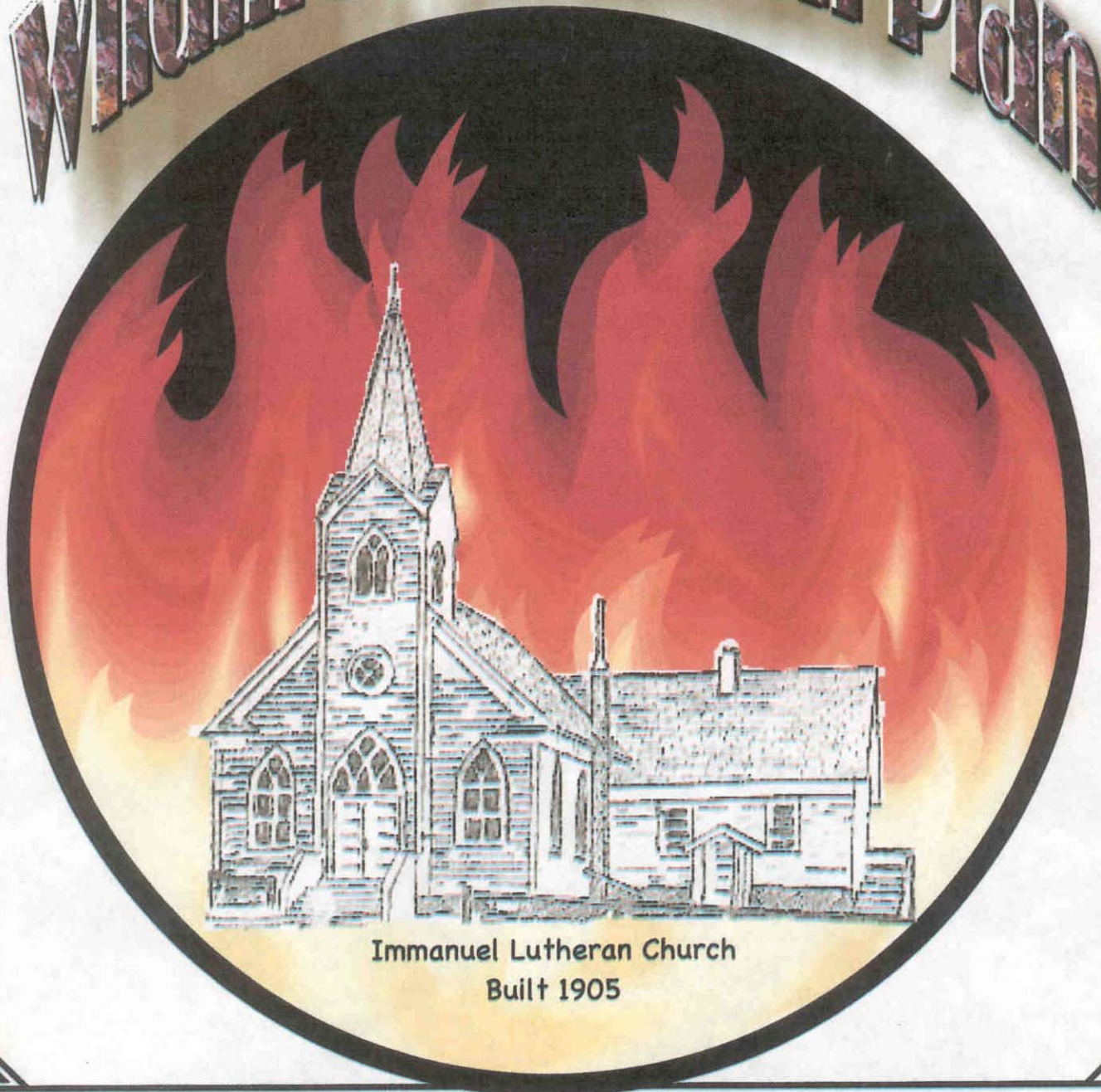


# Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Built 1905



# Our One-Year Anniversary!

## The Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

5/16/05 Here's the latest:

**Revised Plan:** As some of you may recall, back in May of 2004 when the County Commissioners gave us their nod of approval, the DNR did not have a "process in place" for approving Community Wildfire Plans. We were told as long as we had local approval from DNR officials, the plan would be considered valid. We had local approval, the DNR applied for a grant on our behalf and treated 10 acres of land below Hellesons which was identified in the plan. Meanwhile, a booklet was published detailing the required elements of community wildfire plans and clarified who needed to approve the plan: the County Commissioners, the DNR and the local fire department. The DNR developed a process to approve plans so we submitted our plan in July of 2004. In February of 2005 when we applied for a Federal Grant for fuels treatment, the DNR pointed out our plan had never received final approval from the state forester. Thanks to those of you who wrote to Senator Morton and Joel Kretz; their intervention on our behalf brought swift approval from the State Forester and consequently we met the deadline to apply. There were a couple of minor changes to the plan in this process (a table of contents and a couple of words were added), so we do have a slightly "revised" plan. If you need a revised plan for any reason, please let me know.

### **Fuel Treatment Projects So Far:**

1. The DNR hand thinned and piled 10 acres below Hellesons.
2. To date, the US Forest Service has treated 1060 acres near the plan area and have an additional 4760 acres of fuel reduction work planned near our boundaries over the next three years. This does not include the Red Mill Sale which they have worked on over the past two winters and plan to complete, but they were not sure they could get it done in the "next three years". (I specifically asked for what had been completed and what was planned over the next three years for my grant proposal). The Siwash Thin by Kershners, is up and running. It involves 180 acres. This project is being done under a "Stewardship Contract". It is a new "authority" the Forest Service is being allowed to use. Basically instead of collecting all the money which was then sent to the US Treasury, it allows the FS to trade some of the value of the timber for the work done such as thinning, piling, fence building etc. In addition, any money that may be left over stays here on the local forest and can be used for other Stewardship projects. Stewardship contracts also highly stress using local individuals to complete the work. More information can be obtained from the Forest Service or from Tom Kershner who is keeping pretty current on the ins and outs of the Stewardship Contracts. There has already been some talk of looking at a larger Stewardship Contract in this area (like from Kershners all the way to Kliegmans). If so, we will need landowners who live adjacent to these Forest Service lands to be involved in providing direction for the new Stewardship Contract if this becomes a reality.

3. To date we have voluntary private landowner fuel reduction projects completed on over 1200 acres and at least 1100 acres is anticipated being treated in the near future. If you are a landowner and have done or plan to do any fuel reduction work (logging, thinning, burning etc.) please let me know as soon as possible so I can keep these figures current.

In summary, if you add all these together, over 2000 acres have already been treated and nearly 6000 acres are in the planning stages! These are awesome results for our "one year anniversary"!

### **Grants:**

1. The HCWPP grant packet was submitted to Chuck Johnson of the DNR the first week of August 2004. Ten families were interested in a thinning grant while nine were interested in a defensible space analysis. Mr. Johnson informed me in March of 2005 that this grant was not funded by the State of Washington.

2. In February and March of 2005, Rae applied on behalf of the Havillah Community for a federal grant to do fuels treatment on private lands. It was completed with the help of the

Highlands Fire Defense Local Coordinating Group and was submitted in late February. In March, the Local Coordinating Group met to prioritize all the grant applications from this area. We received a priority #1, and should feel very fortunate!. From here, it went to Portland for further prioritization, and finally it will end up in Wenatchee where the Forest Supervisor will look at all the grants from the region. This grant was written very different from the last one, and is attempting to create fuel breaks. It is for fuel reduction work done on or near the forest boundaries, especially where existing work is being done by the Forest Service, and along existing roads, where the road can be utilized as part of the fuel break. It would allow the landowner to do the work themselves or chose a contractor to do the work, and then be given a "rebate" of \$330 per acre. It was patterned after a successful grant that was awarded in Oregon and administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. If we are successful, ours will be administered by the DNR, and although I have had several meetings with them, they have never actually administered a grant exactly like this, so we may be breaking new ground!!

3. The Okanogan County Conservation District is working on several fuels treatment related projects and it is possible they may offer grants in the future for fuel reduction on private lands. Keep your eyes open for this potential opportunity & I'll keep you posted if I hear more.

**Fire District Formation Update:** After the initial meeting on August 26th at Immanuel Lutheran, two other meetings were held. Boundaries were drawn, the situation was assessed and tasks were assigned. Meanwhile, the Aeneas area frequently made the news on their proposed Fire District and their situation was studied. After looking at the number of houses involved and the total assessed value, the committee concluded there would likely not be enough money to run a district, there would likely be a shortage of people to fill mandatory positions, there likely would be a shortage of firefighters, there was no money to put a fire district on the ballot, and as input was received, it appeared people were more concerned about wildland fires than house fires. When added to the myriad of situations the Aeneas district has encountered, the committee has decided to recommend not pursuing the formation of a Havillah Fire District.

Prior to studying the formation of a Havillah Fire District, consolidation was considered, however, Molson/Chesaw expressed no desire to be stretched any thinner (they are already huge); there was opposition to joining the Mt. Hull Fire Department (Swanson Mill Rural Fire District) and the Tonasket Fire District indicated the travel distances being a problem. If someone has a desire to further study this issue, you are welcome to it, otherwise, this one will be put in the books as having been well analyzed but the conclusion is that it is simply not feasible at this time.

Many, many thanks to the committee members who ran this issue into the corner!!

**General:** There are times when we need individuals to attend meetings and provide input. This is usually a one meeting commitment. We are asked to decide things like when hiring a contractor for the Siwash Thin, what would we like to see emphasized (we picked all the criteria and placed percentages on each and actually developed the hiring criteria), We are also asked to meet with Kettle Range and Northwest Ecosystem Alliance on occasion (Siwash Thin; Summit Project) to provide a neighboring landowner's perspective. Many, many thanks to those of you who have already attended meetings, but we are looking for others who would be willing to attend and provide input in the future. If you have not worked on a committee or attended an input meeting, please consider volunteering for this worthwhile effort. At some of these meetings, your presence is the most important statement you will make. Continuing to encourage the DNR and Forest Service to treat their lands adjacent to our private lands will continue to benefit us all as we work toward attempting to prevent a catastrophic wildfire in this area.

As always, if you have questions, please call me. If you would be willing to provide input or have done ANY fuel reduction work on your property, even if it is just one acre, please also call me. I need as accurate of a guesstimate as I can get. This is truly a unique community. Together we will made a dent and make this community a safer place to live. Thanks for your continued help and support. Rae Morris 485-2347



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: HAVILLAH COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Havillah community is an unincorporated area in the northeast corner of Okanogan County. There are no Rural Fire Districts within the area covered by this Wildfire Plan. The area has a history of large wildfires which have burned numerous residences and structures in the vicinity, destroyed private and public timber stands and damaged crops and grazing acreage. The fires generally have had a negative economic and social impact on the area. The residents of the area felt that creating and adopting this community wildfire plan will help them deal with fire issues on private land in the area, and help them influence neighboring public agencies to reduce fire risks that exist on those neighboring public lands. Due to the nature of large wildland fires which have occurred in the area, it is evident that private land owners and government agencies such as the US Forest Service and Washington State DNR must work in a cooperative manner to reduce the risk of large destructive fires as well as working cooperatively in the suppression of wildfires when they occur.

This plan has been created collaboratively by a small team of local residents. It incorporates ideas, comments, advice and input from other local residents. The process for development of this plan included meetings and discussions with a variety of local residents, various groups, and sharing the plan with area government agency representatives to obtain their input and advice. The plan will be updated and modified in this same manner as necessary.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the risk of a large destructive wildfire within the area. Specifically reduce the risk of a large destructive wildfire coming from publicly owned lands of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and US Forest Service onto private lands.
- Reduce the risk of wildland fires on private lands by obtaining silviculture advice for private timber land owners and helping private land owners secure grants and financial aid for thinning, pruning, fuel reduction and general improvement of forest health on private land. Landowners will work with the Forest Service and State Department of Natural Resources to apply for grants.
- Improve the preparation of local land owners for wildland fires which frequent the area, both through education and securing financial aid for suppression efforts.
- Help protect the people, social and economic, and resource values of the Havillah area from the large wildfires that occur in the area.

The action plan for accomplishment of these objectives is located near the end of this plan.

# HAVILLAH COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

This wildfire protection plan covers the general area surrounding the Havillah Community in Okanogan County. It is an unincorporated area in the northeast corner of the county, east of the town of Tonasket and the Okanogan Valley. Local geographic landmarks for this area are described as:

Beginning at the Northwest corner and proceeding east, the boundary follows the Northern edge of Sections 26, 25, (R 28E) and Sections 30, 29, 28, 27 and 26 (R 29E) in Township 39. From here the boundary heads South using the Eastern edge of Section 26 to the Forest Service boundary. From here the boundary runs approximately fourteen miles in a Southwesterly direction following the Northern and Eastern edges of the US Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources property lines, through Sections 35, 34, 3, 9, 8, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 22. At the Southern edge of Section 22, the boundary heads East still following the USFS boundary line for two and three-fourths miles. In Section 24, the boundary heads due South along the USFS boundary through the middle of Section 25 until it hits the DNR property line in Section 36. From here the boundary runs due West using the Southern edges of 1/2 of Section 25, Sections 26, 27, 28, and 29 (R 28E). At Antoine Creek, the boundary follows the creek in a northeasterly direction to the edge of Section 2, then turns due North, using the Western edges of Sections 2, 35 and 26 back to the point of origin.

The fire plan area also covers the ten miles of National Forest Land immediately outside the above described area, as wildland fires within this distance pose a significant threat of running into the described area.

This area is mostly private land and is not included in any Rural Fire District. The State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has wildland fire protection responsibility for unprotected private lands that pay DNR assessments. The US Forest Service has wildland fire management responsibility for the National Forest lands bordering the area. Both the Forest Service and DNR willingly cooperate in wildland fire management efforts. For example, if a wildland fire on private land threatens Forest Service ownership the Forest Service takes action. The same is true of the DNR for Forest Service wildfires. While there is no Rural Fire District within the area, Okanogan County Fire Protection District



#12, and Okanogan County Fire Protection District #11 and other neighboring Fire Districts are quick to cooperate with State and Federal agencies as needed. Relationships between these cooperating agencies is strong, response time is generally quick and appreciated by land owners. Within the plan area, land owners and their neighbors are normally the first to respond to wildland fires. Several land owners have tools and equipment that they use in their own fire suppression efforts. See the Havillah Area Firefighter's phone list that is attached.

## HISTORY:

Prior to European settlement, wildland fires occurred in this area on a frequent basis, perhaps between 8 to 15 years. After settlement in approximately 1900, wildfires were suppressed. Natural vegetation patterns were altered as farming and ranching was developed. Stands of timber were cleared for fields which are still farmed and grazed at this time. This has created a mosaic pattern of vegetation, a mix of fields and timbered acreage on the landscape of private ownership. The State and National Forest lands have remained in a timbered status. Historically the timber in this area was large ponderosa pine in the drier sites, with fir and larch occupying more moist locations. The ground cover was a mix of grass and brush. Historic fires were generally low intensity burns due to low levels of fuel accumulation resulting from the frequent fires.

With a century of fire suppression, the fuel loadings, tree density and forest health have greatly changed, especially in the timbered landscapes. The lack of landscape wildfires have caused unusually high fuel loadings, and in recent years, fires have been more intense "timber stand replacing fires" which have destroyed private homes in the area as a result.

### A. Whiskey Cashe Fire 1976

Man caused in late July of 1976, the Whiskey Cashe fire burned extremely hot and consumed 1900 acres. Burning from DNR lands onto private lands, news articles reported 8-15 homes were lost in the Whiskey Cashe Fire.

### B. Barker Mountain Fire 1985

In September of 1985 the Barker Mountain wildfire started by lightening burned 33,751 acres and 20 homes in the area. This wildland fire started on private land and moved Northeast up slope onto National Forest ownership. This fire burned several sections of land covered by this wildland fire plan, and threatened much more private land within the plan area.

### C. Rocky Hull Fire 2000

The Rocky Hull wildfire was a lightening caused fire originating on BLM land in 2000 burning 9,404 acres, moving Southeast and up slope. 34 homes were lost in this fire.

### D. Wilcox Fire 2003

The Wilcox fire was a lightening caused wildfire that originated on National Forest land in 2003 and burned 480 acres. The fire moved Northeast off of the National Forest onto private land. Due to strong cooperative fire fighting by the DNR, US Forest Service, Okanogan County Fire Protection Districts #11 and #12, and local residents, the fire was stopped within 100 yards of private homes.

There have been numerous smaller wildfires within the area of this community fire plan, however the above examples illustrate the level of risk for large fires which threaten homes in this area. Local residents are keenly aware of the threat of wildfire to their homes, livestock and property. They are active in responding to wildfires when they occur and take action to reduce fuel loading on their private land, especially in close proximity to their homes. The residents are also keenly aware that wildland fire that originates on property other than their own is a threat to their land. Experience has shown that wildland fires originating on public ownership, (State or Federal lands) can and will quickly burn onto private lands. The history of recent large fires makes it clear that under the right circumstances wildfires will move quickly across the landscape covering many miles within a day. Due to fuel loading, tree density, forest health, topography, prevailing winds and other factors, the area is prone to large intense wildfires. For a visual look at the risk to the community see the attachment called "A Community At Risk".

## **2. PLANNING PROCESS:**

This plan is the product of local community residents within the wildland fire planning area, in collaboration with other interested parties and agencies. Input was solicited by a combination of community meetings held in the Havillah community church and personal contacts between residents of the planning area. Cooperative partners include Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the US Forest Service, Tonasket District. In addition, Okanogan County Fire Protection Districts #11 and #12 were consulted. It is intended that the Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan will complement the fire plan being developed by the Highlands Fire Defense Local Coordinating Group.

The Fire Management Plan developed by the US Forest Service for Tonasket District was also referenced in this plan.

Gaps in data or information needed:

- County, State and Federal maps do not show all of the existing roads within the Havillah Community Fire Management plan area. Many of these roads are private farming, ranching or timber harvest roads. Many of these roads are only used occasionally as needed.
- The Okanogan County general plan is not yet complete. This plan will provide more guidance for future development in rural areas including some standards for roads and location of residences considering slope and fuel loadings.
- It would be helpful to obtain silviculture advice for private timber land owners regarding management prescriptions which will improve and promote healthy timber stands which are also resistant to large stand replacement fires.
- Wildland fire management plans for Okanogan County Fire Protection Districts #11 and #12 are not yet available. This plan will need to be amended to complement those plans.
- Locations of all houses in the area are not clearly mapped at this time, nor do they all display visible addresses for emergency access.



### **3. COMMUNITY PROFILE:**

The vegetation on a landscape basis consists of a patchwork of farm ground and timber plots, with ranch homes. Several ranches within the planning area are several thousand acres in size. The timber resources on these private holdings are very important economic resources to the local residents. Increasingly some of the larger blocks of land are being subdivided with a mixture of permanent and seasonal residences being established on five to forty acre blocks of land. There are large blocks of State and Federal lands within and adjacent to the planning area which are timbered.

The homes in the area are a mix of ranch and farm homes, commuter homes for people who live in the area, but commute to nearby towns for work, and seasonal or recreational homes. Many "outbuildings" are associated with the homes of the area. Within recent years between one and three new homes have been constructed each year.

The socioeconomic status of the population is mixed. Most residents are middle income households. Several retired people have moved to the area. Some people maintain recreation homes in the area and have permanent residences elsewhere.

Access to the area is mainly obtained by using the Havillah highway going East out of Tonasket. Access can also be obtained by using several other county and Forest roads.

### **4. WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

The slopes, wind, moisture and vegetation (fuel) patterns of the area lend themselves to large and fast moving wildfires. As described previously, the Whiskey Cashe fire of 1976, the Barker Mountain fire of 1985, the Rocky Hull fire of 2000, and the Wilcox fire of 2003 all moved many miles (up to 10 + miles) within a single burning period. The Rocky Hull and Barker Mountain fires burned over 50 homes. Based on the Tonasket Ranger District Fire Plan, when certain conditions exist, there is potential for large wildland fires. According to this plan, combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:

- a. Wind speeds over 5 mph measured at 20 feet in the air;
- b. Relative humidity of less than 23 %;
- c. Temperatures of over 85;
- d. 1000 hour fuel moisture of less than 10%. (1000 hour fuels are dead fuels over three inches in diameter). The fuel model in the Havillah Community ranges from two to ten, with two being representative of grasslands, and ten being representative of heavy down and dead timber within timber stands.

Burning conditions are usually consistent at elevations and aspects. An energy release component of 46 or greater has been in place when large fires occurred. The energy release component is the heat that will come out of a fire front; in other words, how hot it is burning. The drier it is, the hotter it burns. The energy release component gives seasonal trends calculated from 2 PM temperature, humidity, daily temperature, relative humidity ranges, and precipitation duration. Wind is not part of an energy release component calculation. Energy release component information is available on a daily basis from the US Forest Service during fire season.

Many historical wildfires have moved from public land ownerships to private land in the planning area. Large fires appear to occur about every five to ten years, and are more intense and common during dry years. Large fires can occur between early July and the first part of October. Typically July and August are the peak season for large wildland fires in this area.

Wildland fire protection comes from a variety of sources. The private land owners themselves take preventive measures, such as fuel reduction near residences, and respond to wildfires they are aware of. The Washington State DNR responds to wildland fires within the planning area. Often Okanogan County Fire Protection Districts #11 and #12 cooperate with the State as well. There is no organized Rural Fire District within the planning area. There are no "fire hydrants" developed. Water is often obtained from the impoundment of "Fancher's Dam"; and from drafting water from Mill Creek or other water sources.

As made painfully clear by recent large wildfires, the suppression capability of the area is limited in its ability to protect private homes. Numerous homes have been lost to wildfires in the vicinity of this planning area in the past 20 years. Suppression of wildland fires often is dependent upon changes in the weather, and suppression tactics like burning out from existing roads. During these fire fighting efforts, fire fighting resources are focused on the protection of people, homes and structures. As fires grow larger, fire fighting resources become stretched and on occasion additional priorities must be set when it comes to protecting structures. "Defensibility" is one of the criteria used by fire fighters when deciding which structures will be protected first. Fire fighter safety is always a concern and is first priority during suppression efforts.

Residences are scattered across the landscape, often a mile or more apart, but on occasion only hundreds of feet apart. Livestock are also scattered across the landscape during fire season and consist of large herds of cattle and occasionally horses. Ranchers are dependent upon crops which are mostly dry land alfalfa hay and grains, which become dry and prone to fire during August. The private timber plots are a valuable source of income for the land owners, and also double as grazing land. Other values include wildlife such as deer, upland birds, and fish in the streams and lakes. Often recreationists visit the area to hunt and fish and their visits provide a source of income for the larger area. The Sitzmark Ski Hill is within the planning area and has a chair lift and other structures which are adjacent to timber stands. The community of Havillah has several structures that are nearing 100 years old, and the site is listed as a historic site. The area is very pristine and has been featured in national magazines in the past. The watershed from the planning area drains into the Okanogan river basin. Water is used by farmer and ranchers as well as for residential use. In the dry Okanogan County area, water is a valuable resource.

The timber stands in the area, especially on the public lands have shown signs of insects and disease. The US Forest Service has mapped some infestations on the Bonaparte Mountain and Mt. Hull areas which have resulted in significant mortality within the timber stands. This, in combination with successful fire suppression during the past 100 years, has caused large accumulations of fuels on the National Forest which is much greater than historical (pre European settlement) times. This fuel loading on public land adjacent to the planning area is considered to be a very significant wildfire threat to the private land within the planning area.



## SUMMARY OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT:

Given the above history, issues and current conditions regarding wildfire risks in the Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the following is a list of the specific risks that should be addressed:

A. Most of the private timber plots are overstocked with young trees and due to fire suppression for the past 100 years, natural fuels have accumulated above natural levels. These private timber lands are connected with each other and timber lands on state and federal lands. This condition lends itself to large fires moving across the landscape with the greatest risk of fires moving from public onto private lands. Treatment of this situation is needed. Mitigation for this can be found in action items A, C, G, H, and K in section 6 of this plan.

B. Open fields and grazing land can be found between some of the private wood lots. Farming and grazing help reduce vegetation accumulation in these areas and reduce the risk of large grass fires. This pattern of land use is beneficial to reducing the risk of large fires. Recently grazing on public lands has become an issue. Grazing on public lands will be encouraged to further reduce fuels that can carry large fires. Mitigation for this risk to the plan area can be found in action item P in section 6 of this plan.

C. Forest Service, county and private roads cross the fire plan area. These roads have been used as fire breaks and fire lines in the past. Improvement of fuel breaks along these roads would significantly help with future fire suppression and prescribed burning efforts. Risks to the plan area would be reduced by the removal of fuels along these roads. Mitigation for this can be found in action items A, B and N in section 6 of this plan.

D. Maps of roads are needed for fire fighting efforts and for prescribed fire operations to be conducted safely. Roads need to be wide enough to permit fire equipment to pass. Fire fighters need to know road locations in order to access fires quickly. Mitigation of these risks can be found in action item D in section 6 of this plan.

E. In the recent past, large landscape fires have burned over 50 homes in or near the fire plan area. Often these homes have been located in or near private, state or federal wood lots which are connected across the landscape. Commercial thinning, pre commercial thinning, pruning, treating natural fuels and burning or chipping will greatly reduce the risk of losing more homes. In addition neither state nor local fire fighting resources are located in the Havillah area. Having equipment more accessible will also reduce the risk of the loss of more homes in and near the plan area. Mitigation of this risk can be found in action items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, M, N, O, P & Q in section 6 of this plan.

F. Most of the local landowners have created defensible space and have begun the process of reducing fuel loading on their private lands. Treating fuels after thinning is a big concern. Underburning and the burning of slash piles is greatly hindered by the air quality management standards set by our state. This creates an additional risk to the area, as piles have been created over the years that landowners are not allowed to easily burn. Prescribed fire efforts, controlled burns, and the burning of slash piles is also difficult as the proper equipment is not available. Equipment is needed to help residents treat and manage fuel loading. This additional equipment would also be available for use in a wildfire situations. Mitigation of these two risks can be found in action items F, G and H in section 6 of this plan.

G. Forest health conditions in the Bonaparte and Mt. Hull regions (US Forest Service lands) are in extremely poor condition due to insects, disease, fuel loading and overstocked timber stands. These stands of timber connect across the landscape with private timber plots. The local residents believe that it is not a matter of if these areas will burn, it's merely a matter of when. These two areas pose a huge risk to the plan area and have the potential to become "project" fires. Treatment of these areas by the forest service will greatly reduce the risk of a large fire running from the forest onto the private lands of the plan area. Mitigation of this risk can be found in action item B in section 6 of this plan.

H. Havillah is a historical community and residents value its pristine location. The community itself is at risk of large wind driven fires coming off public lands and placing these historical buildings at risk. Mitigation of this can be found in action items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, M, N, O, & P in section 6 of this plan.

Through this assessment of wildfire history, fire trends, fire patterns, fuel conditions and values at risk, the community of Havillah declares that it is a community at risk.

## **5. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

The US Forest Service and Washington State DNR have suppression capabilities focused toward wildland fires but not necessarily residential fire suppression. The State and Federal agencies have aircraft such as helicopters and air tankers to help with their suppression actions. The US Forest Service has a lookout tower on Bonaparte Mountain to the Southeast of the planning area which has a good view of most of the planning area. This lookout is stationed during the summer fire season.

Fires are reported in a number of ways. Neighbors call each other to report fires and/or ask for help. Calls can be placed using the County 911 phone system with calls taken by the County Sheriffs office and relayed to the appropriate agency. Both the US Forest Service and State DNR have "Dispatch" offices for fire actions. Response to wildland fires within the planning area can be triggered in a number of ways. The Washington State DNR has the primary responsibility for wildland fire suppression on private land. The DNR has a 20 person crew stationed at Loomis about 40 miles from Havillah. It also has numerous "brush engines" throughout the Okanogan Valley Area. The US Forest Service has two wildland engines and numerous hand crew resources. More resources can be ordered as needed, but response time varies and can sometimes be 24 hours or longer. Air craft resources of the DNR and Forest Service are normally available, but can be dedicated to other incidents if numerous fires start at the same time. Often lightening is the cause of wildfires in the planning area, so numerous starts can occur at once and stretch suppression resources.

Residents of the Havillah Community Fire Management Planning Area have a "telephone tree" to contact one another in the event of wildfire. This tool has worked effectively in recent years. Many residents maintain a personal 'cache' of fire tools. Others use farming and/or logging equipment when they respond to a wildland fire. This list is attached.

Washington State DNR does offer Fire Safety Workshops for individuals who are interested. Most often these are attended by private people with equipment who desire



to fight fires on a "call when needed" basis. Several sessions are held in communities adjacent to the planning area. A list of the current sessions is attached.

The US Forest Service and Washington State DNR have existing mutual aid agreements for cooperative efforts at fire suppression. Working relationships between the agencies are good and their unified suppression efforts work well. The adjacent Rural Fire Districts are good cooperating neighbors as well.

Evacuations are normally called for by the lead agency for the suppression effort, normally Washington State DNR, but if a fire is coming off National Forest lands, the incident commander for the Forest Service may call for an evacuation. The Okanogan County Sheriff's office manages evacuations. During wildfires, county roads might be blocked by the County Sheriff to aid with suppression and evacuation efforts. In the past when evacuations have occurred and/or homes have been lost in wildfires, the local chapter of the Red Cross and area churches have worked together to help those who have suffered.

## **6. WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following is a list of mitigation and action plan recommendations:

- A. Encourage and help local land owners to seek grants and financial assistance to help them manage fuel loadings and over stocked timber stands on their private timber lands. Area residents will work with the Forest Service and Washington State Department of Natural Resources to apply for grant funding.
- B. Encourage the US Forest Service and Washington State DNR to take action in Urban Interface Areas to reduce fuel loadings (and thus reduce the risk of wildfire) on their lands being defined as within 10 miles of the Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan area. This is especially important since there is a historical track record of large fires moving from public land to private land and burning up to 10 miles in a burn period. These agencies should focus on areas with known timber insect and disease problems which are causing huge fuel build ups. Commercial timber stand thinning, pre commercial thinning, pruning, and burning are necessary activities on these lands. Areas that have been identified as needing immediate treatment by the DNR include:
  - a. Helleson Fuels Treatment in T38N, R28E, S16.
  - b. Oberg Fuels Treatment in T38N, R28E, S36 and S12.

Areas that have been identified as needing immediate treatment by the US Forest Service include:

- a. Mt. Hull Fuels Treatment area in T40N, R28E, S30, S31, S32, S33; T40N, R27E, S35, S36.
- b. Dry Gulch Fuels Treatment area in T39N, R28E, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11; T39N, R27E, S1 and S2.

- c. Wilcox Mt. Fuels Treatment in T39N, R28E, S13, S14, S15, S23 and S24.
  - d. North Bonaparte Fuels Treatment in T39N, R29E, S35; T38N, R29E S1, S2, S3, S8, S9, and S10.
  - e. Burge Mt. Fuels Treatment in T38N, R28E, S13, S14, S22, S23, S24 and S25; T38N, R29E, S18, S19, S29, and S30.
- C. Request the US Forest Service and/or Washington State DNR to provide silviculture prescriptions for private timber land owners who request them which will improve forest health and reduce the likelihood of crown fires on private lands.
  - D. Encourage local land owners to create maps of ranch and logging roads on their own property which they can make available as needed to fire fighting resources as they respond to fires on their lands.
  - E. Encourage the people in the plan area to adopt standards for safe access on roads for fire fighting equipment.
  - F. Seek grant money from the Forest Service or DNR for fire fighting equipment, both hand tools and other equipment for local residents to use when responding to wildland fires.
  - G. Seek a grant money from the Forest Service or DNR for a commercial chipper to treat thinning slash to be shared within the plan area. Also secure equipment to remove the chips from the treated area.
  - H. Contact State Representatives, Senators and elected officials in an effort to change State air quality standards to promote more slash burning on private and public lands to reduce fuel loadings.
  - I. Help the Washington State DNR in it's effort to notify the local public of the Local Community Fire Safety Training workshops conducted by the DNR. Perhaps host a workshop within the Havillah community area.
  - J. Consider the establishment of a local Havillah Area Rural Fire District.
  - K. Build on the extensive Fire Wise/ defensible space actions and education that has already occurred. Provide "Living With Fire" pamphlets to homeowners which contains 12 pages of specifics for reducing structural ignitability. Acknowledge about 80% of homeowners have made their structures defensible, but encourage 100%. Help local land owners seek grant money from the Forest Service or DNR to creating or improving defensible space around residences.
  - L. Work with and notify area environmental groups and advocacy organizations of the desire of the local residents to promote forest / timber stand health, the thinning of timber stands and treatment of fuels within 10 miles of the Havillah Community Fire Protection plan area. Request that these groups join in support of such action.



- M. Some local residents will provide input to the planning and analysis of projects for the US Forest Service. They would also participate in the forest plan update process. Forest Service projects should include thinning, pruning, burning and other treatments to improve forest timber stand health and reduce fuel loadings and fire risks.
- N. Encourage the County Road Department, the US Forest Service and private landowners to treat and establish fuel breaks along their roads.
- O. Establish water storage in the plan area for fighting wildfire. Develop a map and list available water sources.
- P. Encourage grazing on private and public lands as a fuel reduction measure.
- Q. Create a map listing the location of all residences in the plan area.

## **7. PLAN ADOPTION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This plan is adopted by the land owners within the plan area. There is no financial obligation, commitment or liability on the part of any land owners.

Monitoring will be on going. Action will be taken to inform residents of DNR training and various grant opportunities as they become available.

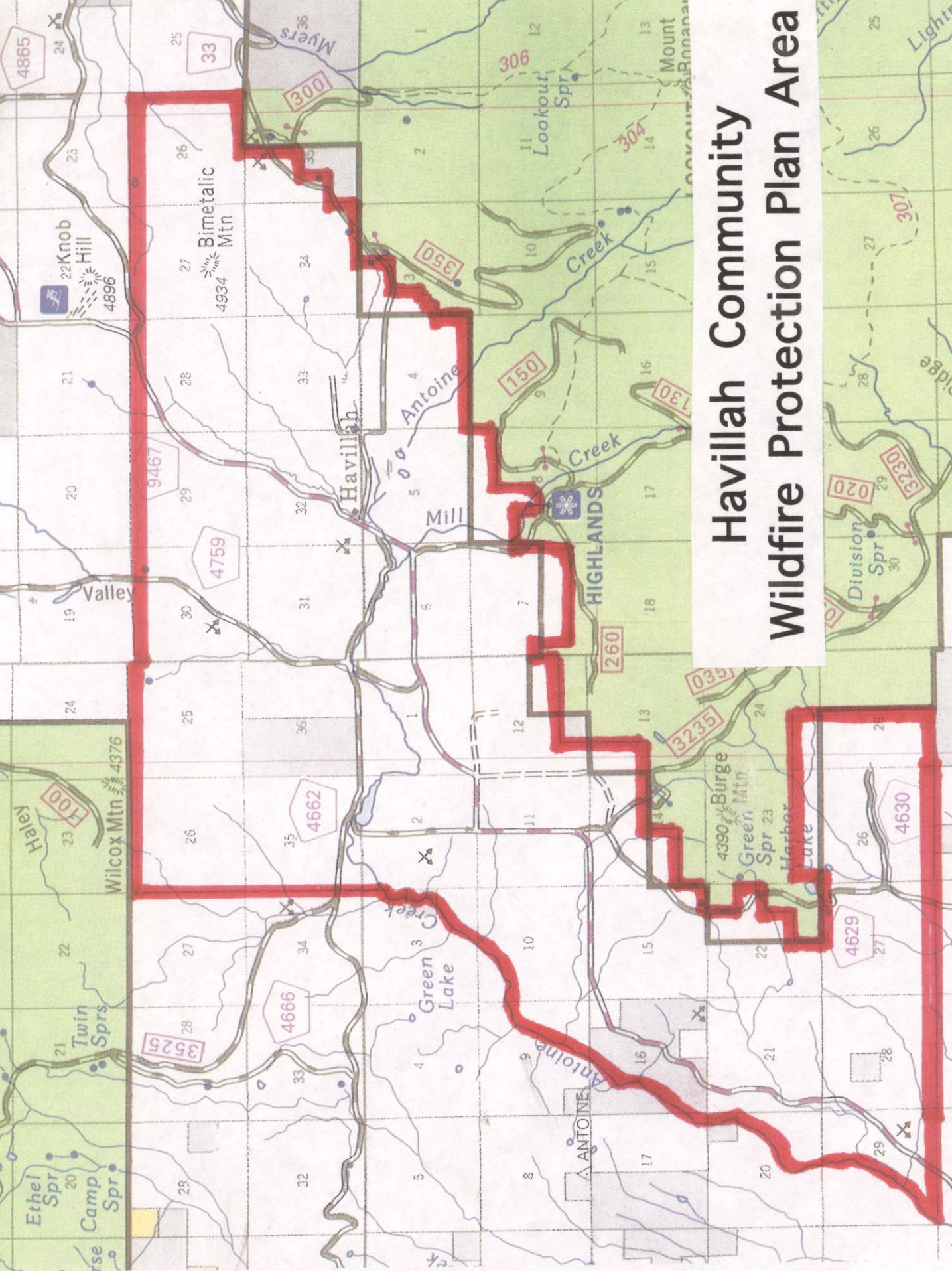
The plan will become official when approved by collaboration of local residents, the Okanogan County Commissioners and the State Forester.

As new plans are adopted by the County, State, Federal agencies and neighboring Rural Fire Districts, this plan will need to be annexed and/or updated.

### Attachments:

- A. Map of the Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan area
- B. USFS Wildland Interface Map
- C. Location of current fire districts Map
- D. Map of the most recent large fires in the Havillah area
- E. Okanogan NF Beetle Infestation & Recent Large Fire Map
- F. Fire Danger Forecast: National Advisory Group for Fire Danger Rating
- G. Havillah Area Firefighters Phone List
- H. Series of pictures showing treated and non treated areas near plan area.





# Havillah Community Wildfire Protection Plan Area



Fire District #11: Molson/Chesaw

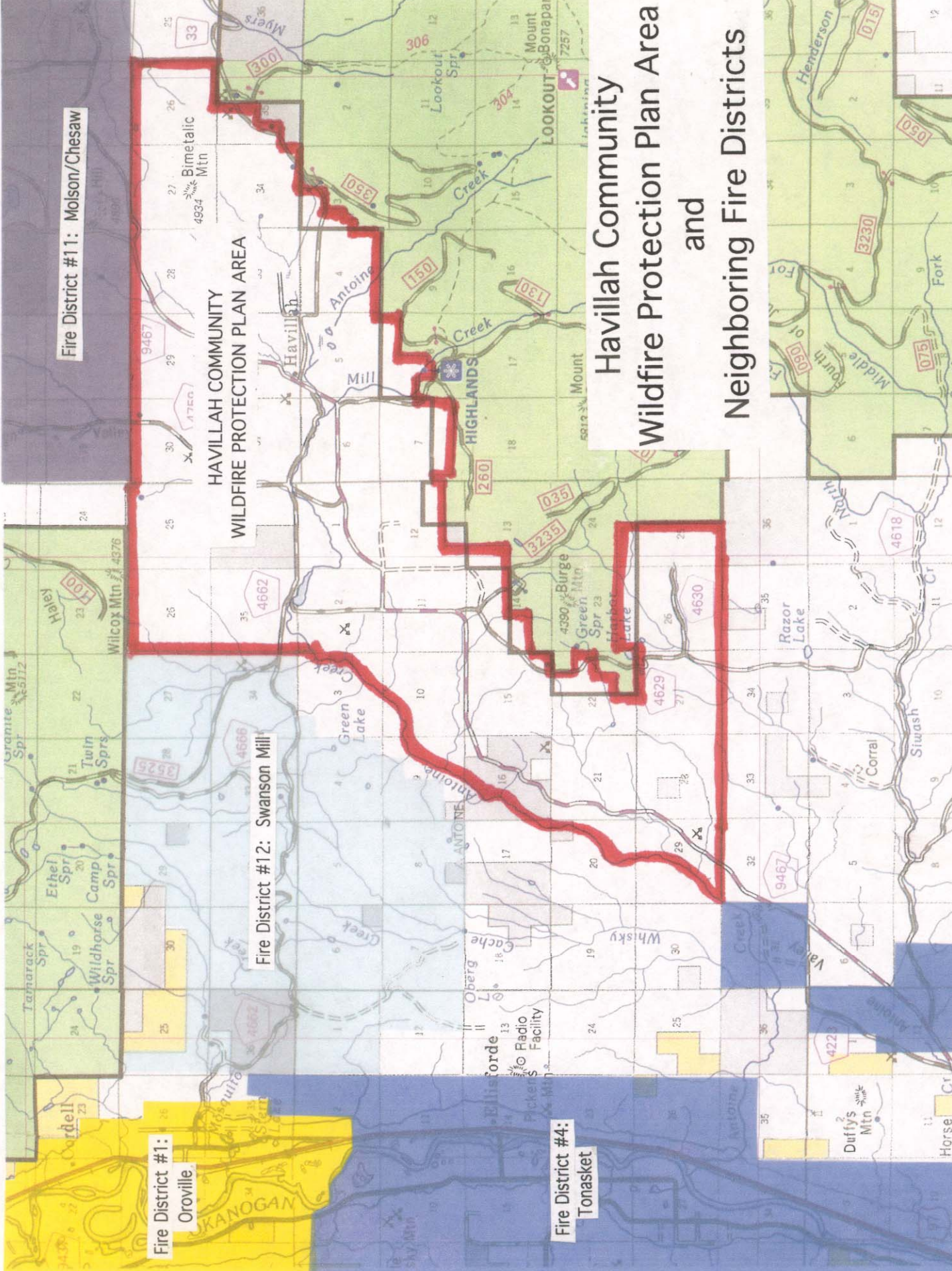
Fire District #1: Oroville

Fire District #12: Swanson Mill

Fire District #4: Tonasket

HAVILLAH COMMUNITY  
WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN AREA

Havillah Community  
Wildfire Protection Plan Area  
and  
Neighboring Fire Districts



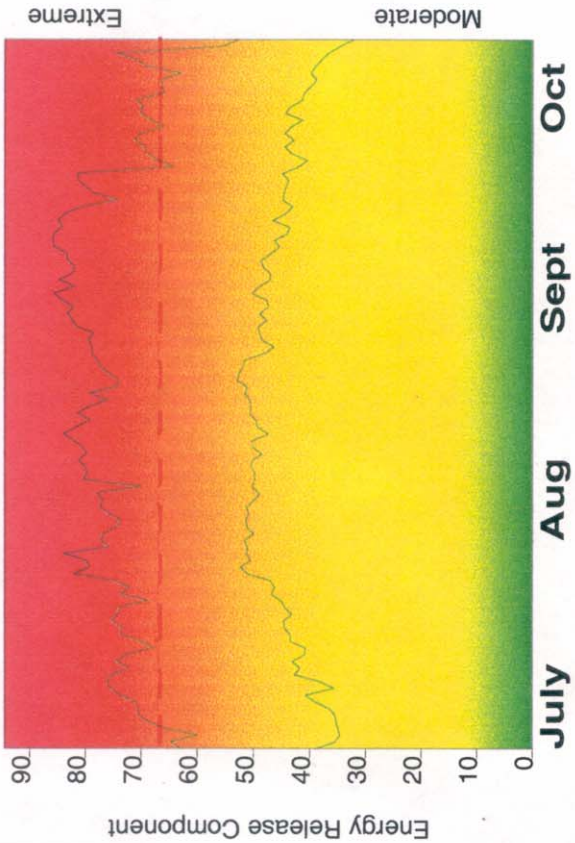


AGENCY	CONTACT	✓	PHONE	PHONE	CELL PHON
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		911	509-684-7474	800-562-6010	800-527-330
TONASKET RANGER DIST.	Sharon Barton-Wood		486-5151		322-1751
TONASKET RANGER DIST.	Duane VanWoert		486-5106		322-1756
MAPARTE LOOKOUT					429-0965
TONASKET U.S.F.S.	Ranger - Mark Morris		486-2186	O.F.S. 826-3275	24 hr 663-85
DIST 11 MOLSON/CHESAW	Phil Dart / Steve Leslie		485-3533	485-3941	
DIST 12 SWANSON MILL	Judy Dasharh		Hm. 556-2189	F.D. 556-2911	669-6088
CASH FIRE CREW	Vaughn / Treebeard / Gasho		486-4423	486-2956	486-1396
NOGAN COUNTY SHERIFF DISPATCH			911	422-7200	
TONASKET FIRE DEPT.	D. Johnson Chief/T.Stevens Asst		911		322-6378
NAME	RESOURCE		HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL PHON
ER, PHIL			485-3411	486-1467	
MCGARDNER, GEORGE	300 Gal.Tank/Pump		485-3414		429-3414
CH, JIM	Dozer / Tillage / Good View !		485-2026	485-3341	
EMAN, JOHN			486-1670		
HOW, DALE	Case 580 Extendahoe W/ Thumb		485-1910		
DERSEN, MARK/JOHN	Machine Operators		485-3702		
CHER, BRYAN			485-1957		
HAM, ROB			486-1495	486-2532	322-1280
AN, JOHN	D.N.R. Tools		485-2133		
ELSON, JIM	Doctor / Transfer Pump		486-2371	486-2174	
EZE, WALTER	Doctor/150 Gal.Tank / Pump		485-3483	486-2174	
MDAHL, TOM	150 Gal. Sprayer/ Good View		486-4925		
CHINS, RICH			486-2910	486-1598	322-4004
SHNER, TOM	Dozer/Skidder/ 300 Gal. Pumper		486-1941	Cell 322-1460	322-1467
LA, GREG			485-2044		
MGMAN, DAVID	200 Gal.Tank / Pump		485-3361		
LMANN, BOB			485-3352	486-2104	
LMANN, TERRY	Sawyer		485-3365		
MARTHY, JOHN	Doctor / D.N.R. Tools		485-2004	486-2174	429-0479
MANGAN, ED			485-1948	486-2147	
MORIS, MARK	Tonasket F. S. Ranger		485-2347	486-2186	429-0481
SON, ROCKY & BERTA			485-2203		
MORG, IVAN	ATV/Sprayer/Tillage/ Good View		486-4277	485-3382	
MORG, LYLE	Dozer / Skidder / Tillage		485-3383	485-3382	
MORG, NORMAN	200 Gal. Sprayer / Tillage		486-4591	485-3330	669-4222
MORRIS, DEREK	ATV / Tillage		486-1415		
MORRIS, TROY	Tonasket Forest Service		486-1525	486-2186	429-2062
MULDHEISZ, PAUL	Mechanic / C.D.L.		485-2211	485-3353	
MURPHY, MIKE	Dozer/Skidgin/Transport/Pumper		486-4650	Cell 679-9853	322-2213
MURPHY, DON	Sawyer		486-4699		429-0327
MURPHY, MARK	Dozer/Transport/1400 Gal.Tender		485-3330	486-4591	322-5631
MURPHY, DALE & PAT	Razor Lake		486-4666	486-0695	429-0134
MURPHY, RAY	D.N.R. Tools / 200 Gal. Sprayer		485-3373		
MURPHY, JACK	3700 Gal. Tender		486-1002	486-1902	
HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM OUTSIDE OUR AREA					
MURPHY, JIM	Dozer / Transport		486-4714		322-6078
MURPHY, BUNK	Heavy Duty Low - Boy		486-2541	486-1554	429-0378
MURPHY, ED	Dozer / Transport		486-1505		322-1804
MURPHY, PEEWEE & GLEN	Dozers / Transports		486-1528	486-2324	429-1550
MURPHY, BURT	Dozer / Transport		486-4962		322-5994
MURPHY, CASEY	Dozer / Transport		486-8200	486-1703	429-0224



# FIRE DANGER -- General Forest / East

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



## Years to Remember: 1996 2001



# Fire Danger Area:

- Okanogan NF
- East of Okanogan River
- Lost Lake Wx (452029)

## Fire Danger Interpretation:



**EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution  
**(Caution)** -- Watch for change  
 Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

**Maximum** -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1980 - 2001  
**Average** -- shows peak fire season  
**90th Percentile** -- Only 10% of the days from 1980 - 2001 had an Energy Release Component above 67

**Local Thresholds - Watch out:** Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:  
 20' Wind Speed over 5 mph, RH less than 23%,  
 Temperature over 85, 1000-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 10

## Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

- 🔍 Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends calculated from 2 pm temperature, humidity, daily temperature & rh ranges, and precip duration.
- 🌪️ Wind is NOT part of ERC calculation.
- 🌄 Watch local conditions and variations across the landscape -- Fuel, Weather, Topography.
- 👂 Listen to weather forecasts -- especially WIND.

## Past Experience:

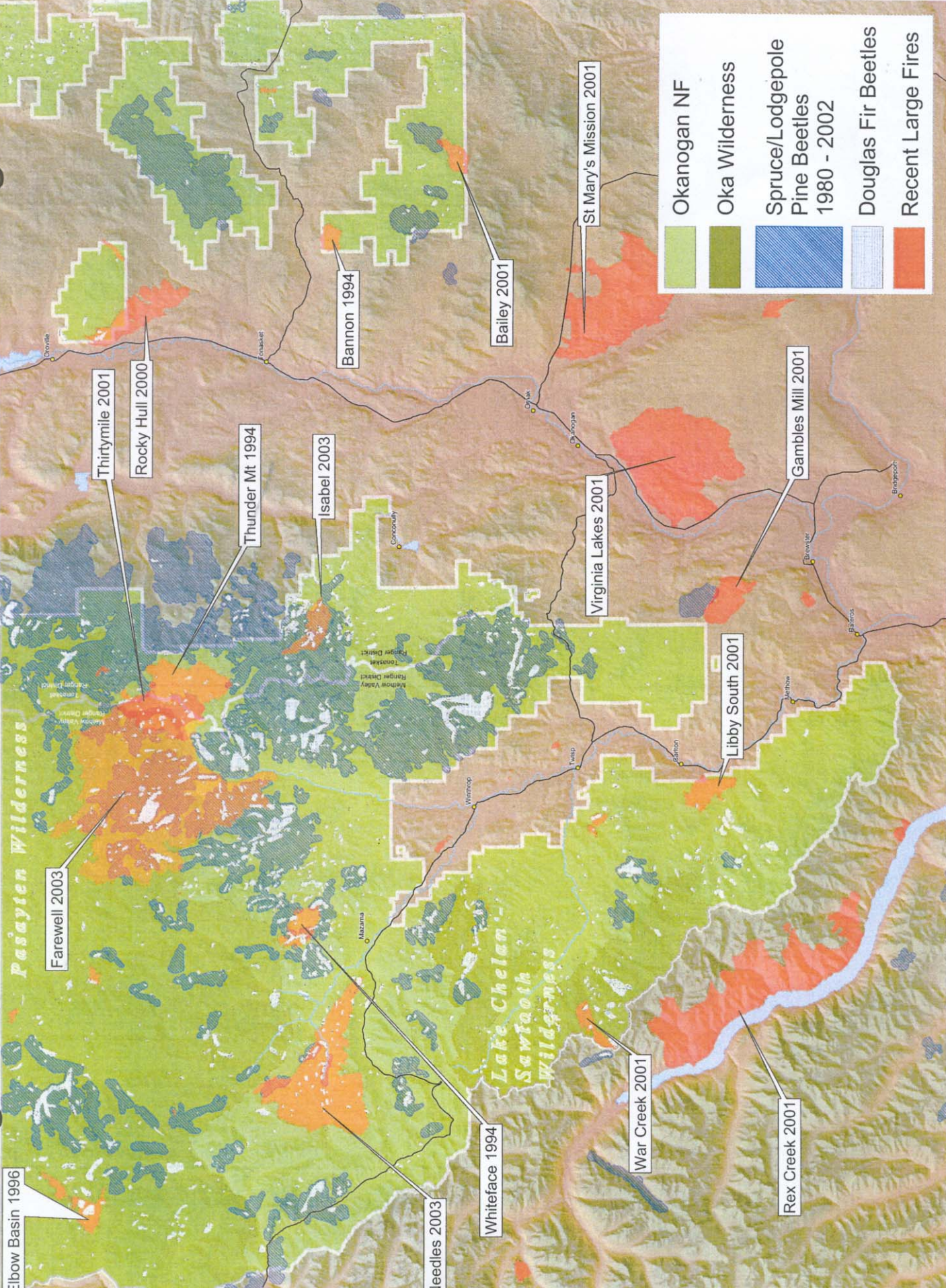
This represents the typical fire danger potential in the forested areas of the Okanogan NF east of the Okanogan River. This weather station is located at mid slope at about 3600'. Burning conditions are generally consistent at elevations and aspects.

- Barker Mt. Fire 8/28/1985 burned 29,032 acres.
- BI=47 ERC=46 1000 hr FM=10 RH=26 Temp=76 Wind=4
- Bannon Fire 7/24/1994 burned 1,350 acres.
- BI=48 ERC=67 1000 hr FM=10 RH=16 Temp=99 Wind=2
- Bailey Fire 8/13/01 burned 3100 acres.
- BI=50 ERC=76 1000 hr FM=9 RH=14 Temp=93 Wind=1
- Fuel Model G2P2

# Fuel Model: G - Short-Needle (Heavy Dead)



# Okanogan National Forest Beetle Infestation & Recent Large Fires





**Rocky Hull Fire 2000**  
9401 Acres

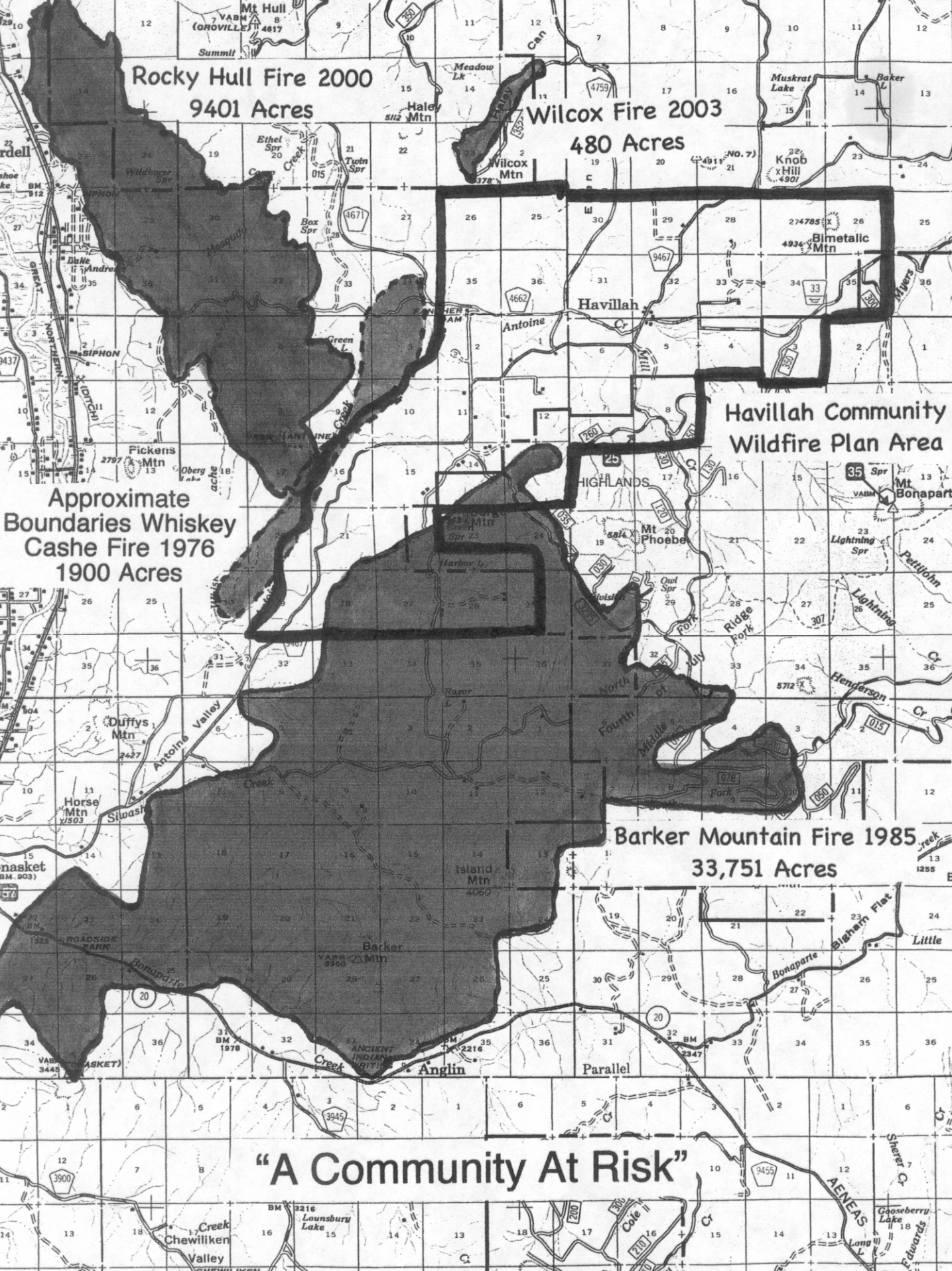
**Wilcox Fire 2003**  
480 Acres

**Havillah Community  
Wildfire Plan Area**

**Approximate  
Boundaries Whiskey  
Cashe Fire 1976**  
1900 Acres

**Barker Mountain Fire 1985**  
33,751 Acres

**"A Community At Risk"**





Untreated section along Havillah Highway





Treated area along Havillah Highway





03/01/2005

DNR fuel break along Havillah Highway





Private land treated near residence





Untreated private land near residence