

## 2021 VFA Phase 2 Scoring Criteria

USFS direction for VFA funding provides states with flexibility in determining grant award criteria. The criteria used for 2021 is similar to criteria used since 2016. The scoring criteria used to prioritize applications for 2021 funding is explained below. A panel of DNR Region and Division staff review the applications to confirm eligibility and scoring. The DNR Wildfire Division Manager approves final grant awards.

### Eligibility (required)

- Respond to wildland fire on private, state, or federal lands, and
- Provide service to:
  - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
  - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less (funding must be used to benefit the rural community)
  - grant funds must benefit the rural area or rural community, and
- Volunteer membership of 70% or greater

Note: Recipients of a Phase 2 grant last year are not considered for funding until all other applicants have been funded.

### Previous VFA Funding

- Scoring is weighted with intent to “share grant assistance” from year to year by providing more points to fire districts based on the time since they last received VFA grant funding (only Phase 2 funding is considered). Does not include Phase 1 or other Fire District Assistance programs that benefit districts (i.e. state grant funding, DNR surplus engine transfers, et.al.). Districts that received a Phase 2 grant last year are only considered for funding after all other districts have been funded.
  - > 3 years 4 pts
  - 3 years ago 3 pts
  - 2 years ago 1 pts
  - Last year 0 pts

### Agreement Type

- Scoring gives more weight to districts that have joint jurisdiction/mutual aid with DNR (assumption is funding then benefits DNR as well), and with federal agencies (since funding is federal). DNR Forest Land Response Agreements (FLRA) address mutual aid with DNR.
  - DNR Forest Land Response Agreement and Federal mutual aid agreement 3 pts
  - DNR Forest Land Response Agreement only 2 pts
  - Federal mutual aid agreement only 1 pts
  - None 0 pts

### % Volunteer

- Scoring is weighted with intent to meet USFS direction that VFA funding should target fire districts that have an 80% or greater volunteer staff but allowing participation by fire districts that do not.
  - 90-100% 3 pts
  - 80-90% 2 pts
  - 70-79% 1 pts

## Fire Operating Budget

- Scoring is weighted to favor “low budget” districts. Makes a general assumption that low budget districts have a greater need for assistance.
  - ≤50,000 4 pts
  - 50,000 – 125,000 3 pts
  - 125,000 – 200,000 2 pts
  - 200,000 - 350,000 1 pts
  - > 350,000 0 pts

## FAP Core Areas (see map on page 3) and Burn Risk

- VFA funding comes to DNR through a grant agreement with the USFS. The grant includes funding for several other programs (i.e. fire preparedness, forest health, forest nursery, stewardship forestry, urban forestry). All states receiving this annual funding are required to develop a “Forest Action Plan (FAP)” that provides a strategy for spending the grant funds in priority areas determined by the state. DNR’s FAP identifies “Core Areas” representing generally the state’s high fire areas.
- The intent of the FAP scoring is two-fold. 1) It shows we are including the FAP strategy in prioritization of where VFA funding is spent, and 2) the Core Areas provide a high level view of where fire danger is highest in proximity to DNR protection and USFS ownership.
- Districts receive the FAP score if any portion of their boundary intersects with a Core Area
  - Fuels Core Area 2 pts
  - Forest Health Core Area 1 pts
  - None 0 pts
- In addition to utilizing FAP Core Areas, applications are awarded points based on the Fire Risk Index, which identifies areas that have important values at risk due to wildfire and/or are costly areas to suppress wildfire.
  - High Risk 2 pts
  - Medium Risk 1 pts
  - Low Risk 0 pts

## Project Type

- Intent is to provide priority to districts placing Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP), Firefighter Property (FFP), and DNR Surplus Engines into service.
  - FEPP, FFP, DNR engines 1 pts

## FEPP Replacement

- Intent is to provide districts an incentive to replace old and aging Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment. Also benefits DNR by reducing the current FEPP inventory workload.
  - Yes 1 pts
  - No 0 pts

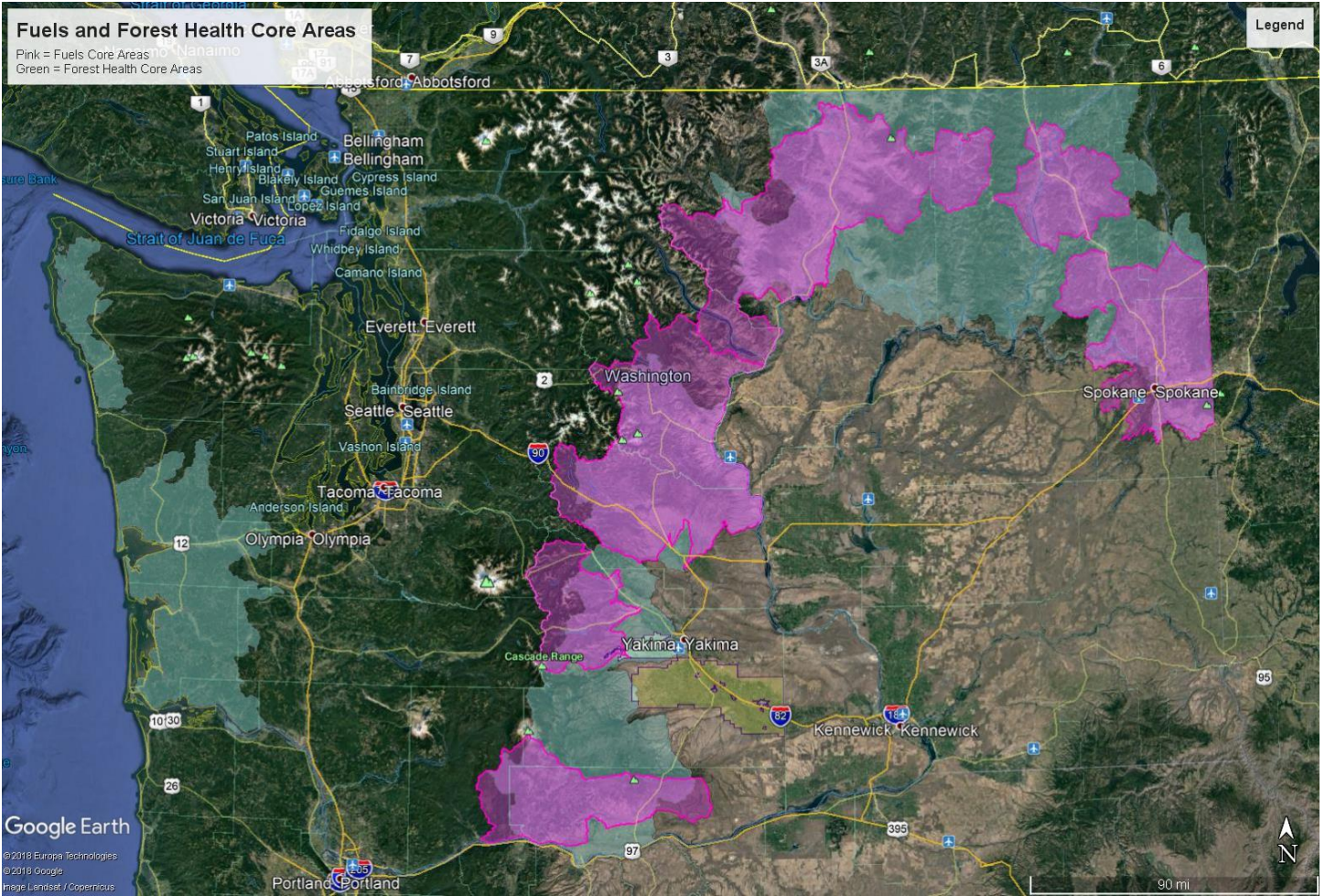
## Average Annual Wildfire Responses

- Used as a tie breaker for applications with the same score.

# Fuels and Forest Health Core Areas

Pink = Fuels Core Areas  
Green = Forest Health Core Areas

Legend



Google Earth  
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90 mi