



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

1111 WASHINGTON ST SE
MAIL STOP 47037
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7037

360-902-1300
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

To: Wildland Fire Advisory Committee
From: Allen Lebovitz, Wildland Fire and Forest Health Liaison
Date: 3/18/21
Attached:
Subject: March Monthly Update

- **Wildfire Ready Neighbors** – This is a new initiative launched by the Commissioner of Public Lands, to encourage small landowners to improve the fire readiness of their homes and properties. A program manager has been hired to coordinate the program for DNR, Carrie Ulvestad, who will be providing an update at our upcoming meeting. Substantial progress has been made in preparing to launch the pilot and engaging with partners since the last report. A significant number of fire districts and community partners have been added to the program. The Colville Confederated Tribes have also recently joined in on the effort. DNR has developed a Survey 123 App that improves data collection during the home and forest assessment process and makes it easily shareable with partners. Further, materials in Spanish have been added and partners are assisting with outreach to Spanish speaking community members.

The pilot project will be kicked off in Chelan County April 5th, followed by Okanogan County April 19th, and Spokane County April 30th. Thanks to assistance from Melissa Gainnie with the State Fire Marshal's Office, coordination at a statewide level has also taken a big step forward with connections being made with the Washington Fire Chiefs, Fire Leadership Forum, and Community Risk Reduction Work Group.

- **Discussions on the HB 1784 Pilot Project, Potential Control Line delineations and the new KITTI App** – At our upcoming meetings this month and next month, we will have presentations on the HB 1784 Pilot Project which was completed with the submittal of a final report to the Legislature in December, 2020. This project began the process of identifying Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) and Potential Control Lines (PCLs) in three pilot areas, Cle Elum, Leavenworth, and the Methow Valley/Twisp planning areas. You received a presentation on the project when it was initiated and the upcoming presentation at our next meeting will provide you with an update on the outcomes of the work and results presented in the final report. The report can be found at this link: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_2020_fh_report.pdf. Chuck Hersey, the project leader from our Forest Health Program's Planning Section will be presenting an overview of the project and final report. At our April meeting, Ana Barros, Fire Scientist working on the project, will give a more ground level presentation on how the project is delineating PCLs and the new tool developed by DNR to assist partners with delineating and describing them, called KITTI.
- **Discussion on the beneficial use of fire** – Based on a request by WFAC member Cody Desautel and also the Commissioner of Public Lands, we are planning to begin a conversation on the subject of the use of fire to improve wildland fire resiliency and forest health. To frame the discussion, Loren Torgerson and I have been working on an issue paper that lays out key issues for discussion and I have been discussing the beneficial use of fire with regional experts to inform the development of the paper. I anticipate this will be just the beginning of what will likely be a much longer conversation we will continue during our future meetings and possibly in the Joint Work Group with the Forest Health Advisory Committee. If you have suggestions for related topics to discuss, materials to share, or speakers to invite, please let me know.