

Community Defense via Shaded Fuel Breaks

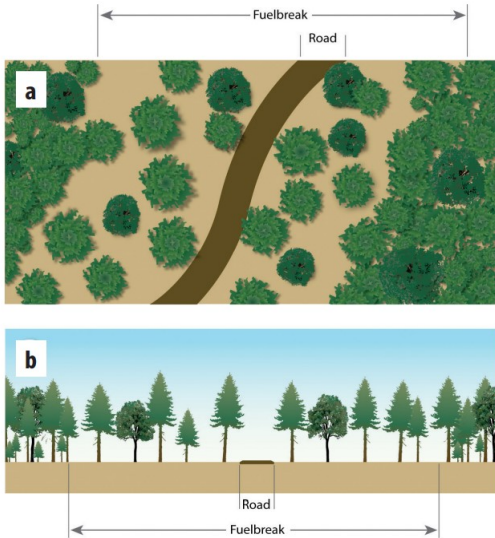
Past issues of this newsletter have discussed how creating [defensible space around homes](#) and implementing [landscape-scale fuels treatments](#) (like prescribed fire) are essential wildfire risk mitigation strategies. Shaded fuel breaks are another tool for community wildfire defense increasingly utilized around Trout Lake.

Placed in strategic locations (e.g., along a road or ridgeline, or around a subdivision), [shaded fuel breaks](#) are areas of reduced and managed vegetation intended to 1) slow/diminish wildfire behavior before it reaches a community, and 2) facilitate fire suppression operations by creating a safer, pre-treated area to control an oncoming fire. Not all vegetation is removed within a fuel break. Instead, the goal is to reduce fuel density and continuity by targeting smaller trees, understory brush, and “ladder fuels” that could carry a lower-intensity surface fire into the tree canopy. Techniques like pruning, chipping, mastication (grinding/shredding of forest fuels), and prescribed fire can be used to accomplish this objective, and provide forest health benefits as well. *A shaded fuel break by itself will not stop a wildfire.* Rather, fuel breaks are a tool to increase our chances of containing a wildfire before it threatens community values.

With an influx of federal funding to several organizations in Klickitat County for fuel break implementation (more information to come!), you’ll likely be noticing many more of these projects in the region. FACT will be hosting a Q&A tour in July of a fuel break that was constructed in Trout Lake last month. Stay tuned for details!



Before and after fuel break construction in Trout Lake this spring.



Source: OSU Extension Office

Upcoming Events



Columbia Gorge TREX

October 9-20, 2023 | Glenwood, WA

Applications are now open for the inaugural Columbia Gorge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX), hosted by Mt. Adams Resource Stewards. This is a 12-day immersive training event to build participants’ prescribed fire experience and skills. No qualifications required. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply.

Contact Us

If you have questions or want to be added to our email list, please contact:

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440-497-8224

Last chance: Win \$500 in hardscaping material!

Have you received a free 30-min **home wildfire risk assessment** yet?

If you [sign up](#) for an assessment by **Thursday, June 8**, you will be entered into a raffle to win \$500 worth of hardscaping materials of your choice. This could be lava rocks, gravel, river rocks, etc.—any non-flammable landscaping product. Two winners will be chosen and contacted on 6/9. If you have received an assessment in the past year, you’ve already been automatically entered into the raffle.

SIGN UP HERE: <https://forms.gle/j32M2aGuz7zZyJbw5>

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Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

For more information, visit: mtadamsstewards.org

Fire Adapted Community Trout Lake (FACT) is a community-led group dedicated to increasing awareness about wildfire risk in Trout Lake and facilitating the work necessary to mitigate that risk. Your FACT committee members are: Daina Bambe, Sharon Frazey, Bob Jolley, Lucas King, and Jim White.