



Wildfire Ready Trout Lake

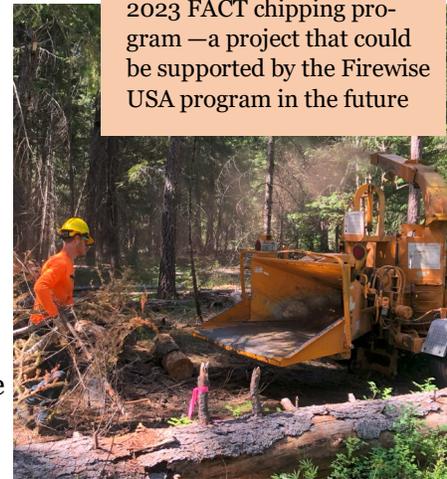
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Firewise USA Program in Trout Lake

You’ve probably heard the term “Firewise” before, but perhaps you didn’t know that Firewise USA® is actually a nationwide program that supports communities in recognizing and mitigating their wildfire risk. Hundreds of communities across the country—ranging in size from Homeowner Associations to small cities—participate in the program, which is housed within the National Fire Protection Association. In recent months, FACT has been working to make Trout Lake a Firewise USA site; here’s why and how.

Why Firewise USA?

- **Funding.** Association with Firewise USA opens doors to several grant funding opportunities that can support FACT’s work.
- **Name recognition.** Many Trout Lake residents already have some familiarity with the “Firewise” name, so we hope this will help draw more people into FACT programs.
- **Structure and accountability.** The requirements of the Firewise USA program (see below) can help keep FACT moving forward with planning and implementation.



2023 FACT chipping program—a project that could be supported by the Firewise USA program in the future

How are we getting involved? (And how can you?)

- **Risk assessment.** As part of our Firewise USA application, we conducted a broad-stroke assessment across Trout Lake to identify wildfire hazards. This will need to be re-conducted every 5 years.
- **Action plan.** We are also piecing together an action plan for the work we hope to accomplish in the next 3+ years. This includes defensible space assistance, fuel breaks, educational events, and much more.
- **Implementation.** Upon acceptance to the Firewise USA program, we will need to annually report about 600 hours of volunteer time/funds spent reaching the goals outlined in our action plan.
- We’d love to show YOU what we’ve done so far, and gather your input for the action plan. Please reach out via the contact information on the left!

Insurance implications. To be clear, the “Firewise USA site” designation likely *will not* directly affect your home insurance policy/rates. The Northwest Insurance Council explained that “no insurer is currently allowed to offer or provide discounts to policyholders in Firewise communities in WA.” However, we hope you agree that reducing wildfire hazards around your home and community is a sort of insurance policy in itself. We also have hopes that the insurance industry in WA will start recognizing these efforts in the future.

Check it out

5 Useful Apps for Wildfire Readiness

Read this article for information on several phone apps that can help you prepare for, report, and monitor wildfire events.

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/five-useful-apps-for-wildfire-readiness/>

Klickitat County Emergency Alerts

On a similar note, make sure you are signed up for **Smart911**, Klickitat County’s emergency alert system. Note: if you already signed up but have not logged in recently, you may have been automatically unenrolled!

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/login.action?pa=klickitatco>

Contact Us

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

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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, Jim White, Dennis Hill, Glenn Bredfeldt, Tom Reynolds, and Jim Lambert.