

# Wildfire Ready Trout Lake

Issue 12 | February 2024



## Pile Burning Best Practices

With snow still on the ground, now is a good time to burn slash piles on your property in order to dispose of fuels that could otherwise spread wildfire. Or, maybe you're looking ahead to the spring, when many of us will start building new piles while [removing vegetation to create "defensible space"](#) around our homes. Either way, we thought we'd share some best practices for pile building & burning:

### Construction:

- Build in a pyramid shape (tall and narrow). Create a bed of fine fuels and needles at the center/bottom of the pile. A good pile should have some air flow, but enough density to shed moisture and effectively conduct heat from fuel to fuel. [You can find more tips here.](#)
- Don't build on top of stumps or put anything other than woody biomass in your piles.

### Placement:

- Piles can create flames 2-3 times their height, and those flames can be bent over by the wind horizontally in any direction. Space your piles accordingly to avoid scorching or igniting nearby trees or structures.
- When building on a slope, be aware that material can roll downhill. Place larger logs parallel to the slope.

### Burning:

- Ensure that there is no burn ban in place. [Determine whether you need a permit from WA DNR](#) (typically for piles >10 feet). For unpermitted burns, you can burn only *one pile at a time*.
- Choose a day when winds are calm or light. Call the DNR burn line (800-323-BURN) to gather important information about air quality burn bans or other local considerations.
- Avoid allowing fire to creep away from the pile by burning when there is snow on the ground or digging down to bare mineral soil around the pile.
- Attend the fire until it is completely extinguished. Have at least five gallons of water and a shovel nearby.

**\*\*Note that FACT will again be providing free chipping services this spring as an alternative method to dispose of woody debris!\*\***



## Upcoming Events

### **KCFD3 Wildfire Mitigation Community Meeting**

Fire District 3 and Underwood Conservation District are leading a region-wide conversation about wildfire mitigation work and how we as a community can collaborate on this issue.

**When:** Weds., Feb. 21, 6:30 pm

**Where:** Husum Fire Station

### **Mt. Adams Prescribed Burn Association Quarterly Meeting**

You can read more about the Mt. Adams PBA in our [recent FACT newsletter](#).

**When:** Mon., Mar. 11, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Ekone Ranch (401 Ekone Rd., Goldendale WA)

## Contact Us

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

Sarah Allaben  
sarah@mtadamsstewards.org  
440-497-8224

### **Quick Note: Shovel a Hydrant!**

Help out our volunteer fire department by digging out the fire hydrant nearest your home whenever it snows. This could be a critical time-saver if firefighters need to respond to a fire at your house or one of your neighbors'.

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For more information, visit: [mtadamsstewards.org](http://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.