

LWFAC encourages public comment on forest health pilot project.
Public Comment needed by March 27th.

The Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Communities Board (LWFAC) had the opportunity this month to attend the USFS Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project (UWPP) open house meeting and to review the contents of proposed plans and information that are available. Concerning the proposed plan and the LWFAC goals, the UWPP is identified by the board as a critical moment in the recovery of our forests and the fire safety of our local communities.

The LWFAC has, in turn, identified several key components that are needed to ensure the success of the long-term plan and to improve community fire safety.

- Regarding the question of where to start. The implementation should begin from residentially occupied land and move outward into the unoccupied forest land. Enhancing defensible spaces.
- The Plan should include the development of community protection zones or lines to prevent fire from both moving into communities and to prevent residential fires from moving out into the abundant fuels of the forest.
- Regarding trails and roads. The plan must work to improve both access and egress. To allow for safe evacuation routes from communities and to enable responding suppression teams to engage fire rapidly and effectively.
- Cooperative fuels reduction plans should include a local spot for controlled burning of woody debris when conditions permit under USFS supervision. The Super Pit is identified as a viable location for materials that may not otherwise be legally transported for disposal.
- Active pursuit of revenue streams and source funding to ensure all phases of implementation. To effectively initiate work on program goals and to ensure implementation finds a fast start and sustained momentum over the life of the Pilot Program.

The Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Communities Board encourage residents of Lake Wenatchee, Plain, and surrounding communities, to offer their comments during this limited time that the USFS is seeking public comment on the plan.

The comments may be submitted online at the link below. **Before March 27th, 2019.**

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=49124>