

Goat Peak Ranch
Owners Association
PO Box 465
Cle Elum, WA 98922

May 31, 2016

Goat Peak Ranch Owners
Re: Roadside Maintenance

Due to increasing fire danger we are sending this message to all owners with the intention of ensuring our community road edges are receiving proper maintenance and reducing fire hazards. Fire District 7 has discussed their concern at an Association meeting with the overgrowth of our road edge, density of the tree canopies and the life safety of both property owners and fire fighters in the case of a wildfire.

Many owners are unaware that it is their responsibility to maintain the area 6 feet from the road edge, the following was approved at the May 9, 2015 Annual Meeting – ***“Property owners will be required to clear trees, brush, limbs and trunks but not roots six (6) feet back from the edge of the asphalt annually. Tree limbs will be cut to fifteen (15) feet above the roadway on the roadway side. If the property owner cannot or does not want to complete the work the association will complete the work and bill the property owner. Any “blowdown” of trees that are within this six (6) foot space must be cleared by the property owner as soon as possible”.***

This upkeep includes the removal of any dirt, vegetation and or debris from in front of their property. We are stressing the importance of this maintenance to improve visibility and decrease the ground and ladder fuels which will reduce the intensity of wildfires. Both the Fire District and DNR recommend clearing up to 50 feet from the road edge, they feel the 6 feet will not thin the vegetation to reduce the wildfire danger.

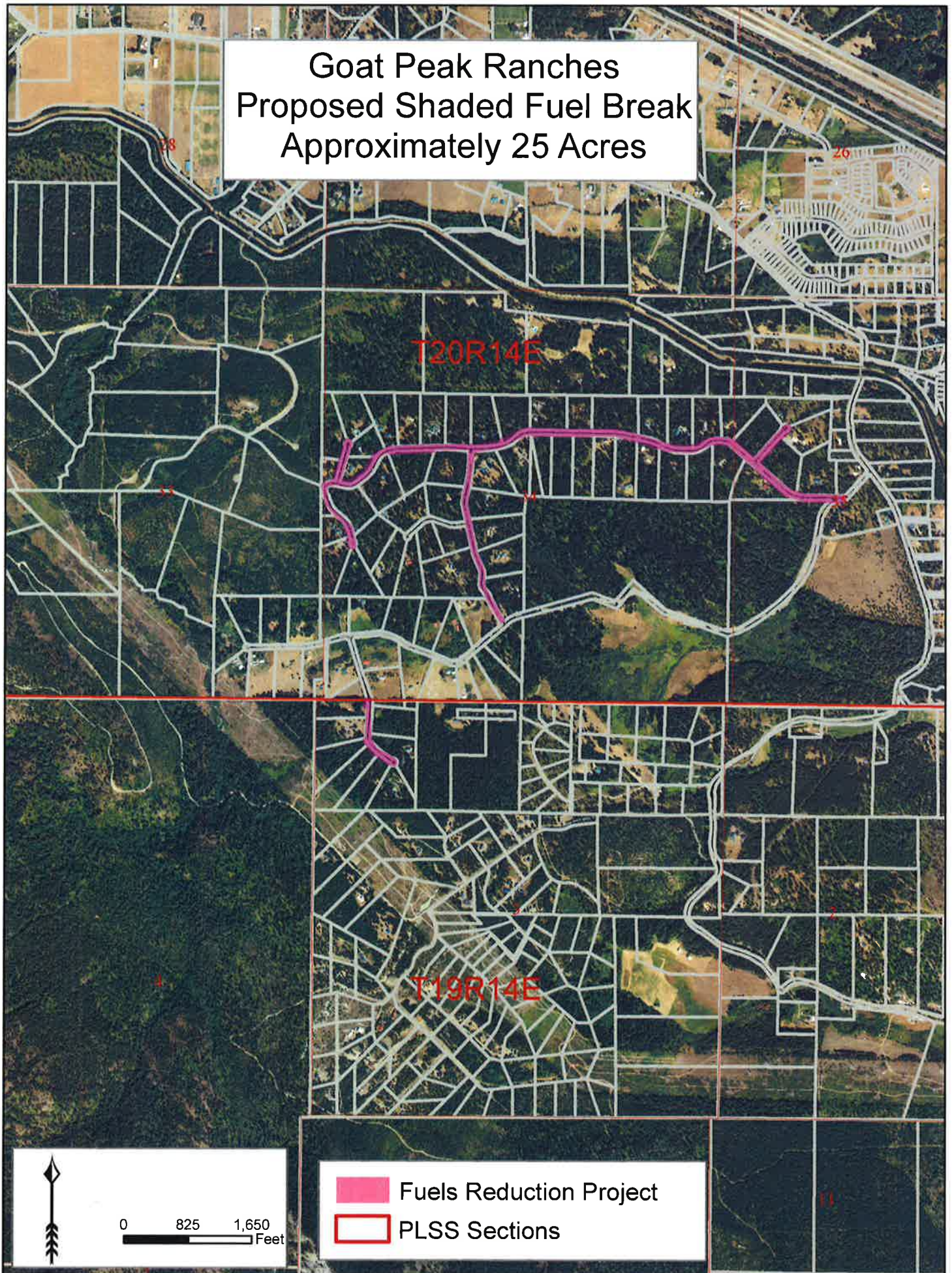
In our efforts to help preserve the safety of the community, we have taken the first steps in becoming a Firewise Community and hosted a “Firewise Day at the annual meeting. ***We have scheduled a Chipping Day”, date to be determined in September and our Firewise Committee has been working with Scott Chambers from the Department of Natural Resources to hopefully secure a 100% funded Firewise grant for interested property owners. Please contact Scott directly for more information at scott.chambers@dnr.wa.gov. His contact information and project information are enclosed.*** We will need 80% owner participation in order to qualify for the grant. If you feel 50’ may compromise your privacy, but you are interested in the grant opportunity, please contact Scott to schedule an onsite visit. If your property is not highlighted on the DNR map but you have tall grass vegetation please cut this to ground level or remove.

The safety of our residents is essential, if this clearing work is not completed prior to Sept. 1st, the Board of Directors will hire a contractor to clear the 6’ from road edge and the expense will be charged to the individual property owner. If you have any questions or need assistance in locating a contractor to help with this clearing please contact a board member listed below or email gproaboard@gmail.com, we will also place a list of contractors on the Goat Peak website; gprhoa.com. We appreciate your cooperation in the maintenance as outlined above and your commitment to improve the safety and livelihood of our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Goat Peak Ranch
Board of Directors

Division 1	Interim Director	Division 2	Division 2	Division 3	Division 3	Member at Large
William Loder	Ken Russ	Michael Johnston	Karen Bailey	Pepper Jones	Gary Pernaa	Jeff Kluth
509-674-6912	425-890-5461	425-466-4993	509-630-4138	509-674-2926	206-972-4484	206-229-7533

Goat Peak Ranches
Proposed Shaded Fuel Break
Approximately 25 Acres





Washington Department of Natural Resources
713 E. Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301
509-925-8510

Dear Landowner,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service is offering a federally funded program that will give eligible landowners the opportunity to have fire-susceptible, over stocked small trees and brush removed from their property free of charge. This process will create shaded fuel breaks along the road systems of Goat Peak Ranches from which local fire-fighting resources can mount an effective defense against a wildfire that may threaten the community and that will enhance the safe ingress/egress for emergency resources and community members.

I'm writing you because you are a recorded landowner who owns property in the Goat Peak Ranches community. This area was selected because of the vulnerability of the community to wildfires, the distance from available back-up firefighting resources and because there is already significant work being accomplished by residents.

Reduction of heavily concentrated fuels will be offered primarily on participating private ownership. The contractors will not remove any live trees larger than 8 inches in diameter. The material will be mechanically disposed of on site and spread evenly over the forest floor allowing the nutrients to be used by the remaining vegetation. **It is NOT a clear-cut or commercial harvest.**

I'm asking you to contribute to this project in the following ways:

1. Meet or allow DNR Fuels Management staff on your property to mark the unit lines.
2. Agree to the proposed scope of activities slated to avoid conflicts following treatment.
3. If your property is within the proposed units, give your consent to the project coordinator to include your land into the contract. The advantage to you and the community would be to expand the fuel breaks and consequently increase its effectiveness and protection of your community.
4. Sign the letter of access to your property with contract prescription included in this packet, and return it to me.

I am anxious to talk to you about the project and to answer questions you might have regarding your participation. I can be reached at the number shown on the letterhead or below. PLEASE give me a call, or leave a message and I'll get back to you.

Funding for this project is available now. We would like to start this project in the near future. This of course will be subject to fire danger and weather. I hope to hear from you in the very near future.

Sincerely,
Scott Chambers
Landowner Assistance Forester
(509) 925-0929
scott.chambers@dnr.wa.gov

Chuck Wytko
Landowner Assistance District Manager
(509) 925-0972
charles.wytko@dnr.wa.gov



Goat Peak Ranches Fuels Reduction
Approximate Acres of Project: 25



Brought to you by a Partnership of Washington State Department of Natural Resources, your local Fire Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

Contact Person: Scott Chambers - Southeast Region Landowner Assistance Forester Phone: 509-925-0929
Washington State Department of Natural Resources SE Region, 713 Bowers Rd. Ellensburg, WA. 98926-9301

Specifications

The following fuels reduction treatment will be followed 50' each side of the road where applicable:

1. Dead and down material up to 10 inches in diameter will be chipped and the chips scattered over the work site.
2. The limbs of dead and down trees greater than 10 inches in diameter will be removed and chipped and the remaining trunk will be left in place unless several trees have created a piled concentration. In this case, the remaining tree trunks will be separated by at least 10 feet from any other logs and left on site.
3. Standing dead trees with red needles still attached shall be felled and treated using the dead and down prescription as required in item 1 and 2 above.
4. Snags will be felled if within 50 feet of another snag and will be treated using the dead and down prescription as required in item 1 and 2 above. Snags that pose a hazard to crews working in the area will be felled.
5. The Contractor will not cut any green trees from the premises that are greater than 8-inch diameter at breast height without prior approval from the Landowner.
6. Trees 8 inches and greater in diameter (DBH) will be pruned (live and dead limbs) up to a height of 15 feet. Limbs will be pruned when branches are larger than 2 inches diameter (regardless of length) or greater than 2 feet in length (regardless of diameter). No pruning will be done to a height greater than 50% of total tree height. The cut limbs will be chipped on site.
7. Trees less than 8 inches DBH will be spaced leaving 5-10 feet between crowns. Live and dead limbs will be pruned up to a height of 15 feet. Limbs will be pruned when branches are larger than 2 inches diameter (regardless of length) or greater than 2 feet in length (regardless of diameter). No pruning will be done to a height greater than 50% of total tree height. The cut limbs and stems will be chipped on site. Trees < 5 feet high do not require pruning.
8. All trees < 8 inches DBH will be removed within 5' of the road ditch line.
9. Non-coniferous brush will be cut and chipped on site unless islands are pre-designated or agreed to by the contract administrator or his designee.
10. Ground disturbance from machinery use shall not exceed 15% on each acre and berms, ruts and other operator caused ground disturbance will be smoothed out to original contours before leaving the immediate work area.
11. Chips will be dispersed evenly across the site not to exceed a depth greater than 4 inches.
12. Cut stump heights will be made as close to the ground as possible, not to extend more than 2 inches above closest terrain. Flat cuts will be made so that it does not create a sharp stump.

This plan and the above work is funded by Federal Grants and subject to the funding thereof. The work will be completed at no charge to the landowner.

NOTE: The Department of Natural Resources and its contractors do not make any express or implied warranties, including but not limited to any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will the Department of Natural Resources or its agents be liable to you or any other person or entity for any incidental or indirect damages, special or consequential damages whatsoever, arising out of the services provided hereunder, even if they are foreseeable or you have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

I hereby authorize the above work to be accomplished on my property and allow the contractors to enter onto my property for the purpose of conducting said work. I have reviewed the boundaries of the work and certify that I am the owner of the property on which the work is to be performed. I will maintain the fuels modification for a minimum of 10 years or until I sell this property, whichever is sooner.

Please sign and send to address below or email to: scott.chambers@dnr.wa.gov

Landowner Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Please mail to: Scott Chambers

Dept. of Natural Resources
713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg WA. 98926