

Firewise Incentive Program Information Sheet for 2010 **Underwood Conservation District & Skamania County**

What: The Firewise Incentive Program is designed to encourage and promote personal responsibility for managing natural resources to help protect homes from the threat of wildfire through technical and financial assistance. Underwood Conservation District (UCD) will reimburse landowners, up to a maximum dollar amount, for the below listed Firewise Incentive Practices. This program is being administered in cooperation with Skamania County and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Funding for this program has been provided by Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act, reauthorized in 2008.

Why: Fire science research has shown that the potential for a home or other structure to ignite is minimized by modifying the home itself and the area within 100 to 200 feet around the home (Cohen 1999). It is the homeowner, not public land management agencies or fire departments, who holds the primary and ultimate responsibility for home wildfire protection. There are several simple steps that homeowners and landowners can implement to greatly increase protection of people and property from wildfire. The UCD Firewise Incentive Program is designed to enable these practices to be implemented. *Work conducted under this program does not guarantee the prevention of wildfire occurrence, and Underwood Conservation District will not be held liable for any damages that result from wildfire or any natural events.*

How: Step 1: Contact Underwood Conservation District at 509-493-1936 to schedule a FREE Wildfire Hazard Home Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the specific risks and hazards that your home faces. This assessment is mandatory to qualify for Firewise Incentive funding.

Step 2: Apply for Firewise funding. UCD staff will work with you to develop a Firewise project, and help you fill out a Firewise application and agreement. **All applications are due by 4:00 PM on Tuesday June 1st, 2010 OR Tuesday August 3rd at the Underwood CD office in White Salmon.** You will need the following information to adequately fill out the Firewise application and agreement:

- (a) Description of Work: This includes what you or a licensed contractor will be doing with Firewise funds. Please be as specific as possible when describing the project and include expected outcomes. Examples of expected outcomes include the total acres (Tree Thinning, Brush Control, Pruning and Slash Disposal), total length in feet (micro-irrigation system installation), number of hazard trees removed and the total number of fire resistant plants established.
- (b) Landscape Map: This can be a hand drawn map to help us visualize the project. Photos of the project area are helpful though not required.
- (c) Budget: We will need to see a budget that describes and shows the unit cost of each budget item. Where possible, please include three price quotes for materials or services. Applications that provide three quotes will be given priority over those applicants that provide only one or two quotes.



Step 3: Wait for UCD Board of Supervisors approval. The UCD Board of Supervisors will make all final decisions regarding project applicant awards. There will be **two** deadlines for project applicants. Applicants who submit applications before the first deadline but are not awarded funding are allowed, and encouraged, to re-submit applications for the second deadline. The UCD Board may, at its sole discretion, elect to allocate up to as much as 50% of the entire program budget after the first deadline. After the second deadline, the UCD Board may, at its sole discretion, elect to allocate up to the balance of the remaining funds.

1st Round Deadline: Tuesday June 1st, 2010 at 4:00 pm at the UCD office.*

2nd Round Deadline: Tuesday August 3rd, 2010 at 4:00 pm at the UCD office.*

*Post mark dates will not be considered. Applications need to be in the office by the stated date and time.

Step 4: Carry out agreed-upon work. All work must be completed after date of approval and before December, 31st 2010. All project work will be the sole responsibility of the project applicant, also known as the cooperator. The cooperator may choose to either hire a contractor, complete the work on their own or a combination thereof.

Step 5: Submit copies of all relevant receipts and schedule a follow-up site visit with UCD. UCD staff will re-visit your home to verify the work has been completed to the agreed-upon standards and descriptions. If the applicant is only able to partially complete the work, UCD staff will estimate the percentage of work completed during the follow-up site visit and recommend that the UCD Board of Supervisor reimburse the applicant for the same percentage of requested funding. Applicants must submit copies of all relevant receipts and invoices.

Step 6: UCD Board of Supervisors will issue a reimbursement check. Based upon original agreement, request for reimbursement, and the UCD staff follow-up visit, the Board of Supervisors will issue a reimbursement check.

Who: All residents of Skamania County. Individuals, multiple-landowner groups and communities can apply under a single application.

UCD Firewise Incentive Practices: Project costs will be funded based upon relevancy to implementation and maintenance of practices listed below. Treatment to create defensible space will be given highest priority. Ineligible costs include but are not limited to: purchase of motorized equipment and purchase of plants identified in the 2009 Washington State Noxious Weed List.

Name of Firewise Incentive Practice	Location of Practice	Unit of Measure	Available Incentive
Brush Control	Within 200 feet of home	Acre	Up to \$60 per acre
Tree Thinning	Within 200 feet of home	Acre	Up to \$120 per acre
Pruning	Within 200 feet of home	Acre	Up to \$160 per acre
Slash Disposal	Within 200 feet of home	Acre	Up to \$150 per acre



Micro-Irrigation System Installation*	Within 200 feet of home	Length in feet	Up to \$ 550 per landowner
Fire Resistant Plant Establishment*	Within 200 feet of home	No. of plants	Up to \$ 200 per landowner
Hazard Tree Removal	See definition below.	No. of trees	Up to \$ 350 per landowner

*Must be done in conjunction with one or more of following practices: Brush Control, Tree Thinning, Pruning, Slash Disposal.

Definitions:

Defensible space: The area around a structure that has been landscaped to reduce fire danger. In most cases this area is at least 100 feet around a home in which vegetation is selected, trimmed, spaced and irrigated in a manner that will likely hamper the spread of wildfire.

Brush Control: Removal, chipping, mastication or burning of dense brush.

Tree Thinning: Removal, chipping, mastication or burning of dense trees.

Pruning: Removal of limbs up to 30 feet from ground but no more than half of total canopy height.

Slash Disposal: Removal, chipping, mastication or burning of forest slash.

Hazard Tree Falling: Preparing and falling trees of > 6" D.B.H. within 1.5 times the height of the tree away from the home

Micro-Irrigation System Installation: Design and installation of a micro-irrigation system, within 200 feet of the home or structure, to provide water for fire resistant plants. This can include equipment costs and labor costs to install the system.

Fire Resistant Plant Establishment: This includes the purchase and establishment of plants, within 200 feet of the home, which do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition source. Those plants that may be considered for funding are listed in the publication "Fire-resistant plants for home landscapes: Selecting plants that may reduce your risk from wildfire" (PNW 590 August 2006) or in the publication "Fire-resistant plants for Oregon home landscapes" (Fitzgerald and Amy Jo Detweiler 2006). Plants listed on the 2009 Washington State Noxious Weed List are not eligible for funding. Either of these publications can be obtained, for free, from Underwood Conservation District while supplies last or downloaded for free from the internet by following the links: http://www.firewise.org/usa/fw_plantlists.htm, and <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/emergency/FireResPlants.pdf> <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>

References:

Cohen, Jack. Reducing the Wildland Fire Threat to Homes: Where and How Much? USDA Forest Service Gen.Tech.Rep. PSW-GTR-173. 1999.

Detweiler, Amy Jo and Fitzgerald, Stephen. Fire-resistant plants for home landscapes: Selecting plants that may reduce your risk from wildfire. PNW 590. A Pacific Northwest Extension publication.

Detweiler, Amy Jo and Fitzgerald, Stephen. Fire-resistant plants for Oregon home landscapes. Oregon State University Extension Service Forest Resource Note 6. August 2006.



Underwood Conservation District

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