Carlton Complex

and other Okanogan County Wildfires

Natural Resources Recovery Guide

This document will be frequently updated - if you find errors or omissions or wish to add your resource, please contact Terri Williams at terriw@okanogancd.org

In an Emergency, Call 911

To report structural damage or get information about current fires, contact the Okanogan County Emergency Operations Center at:

(509) 422-2422
(509) 422-2428
(509) 422-2408
(509) 422-2420
Or
(509) 449-6602 (cell)
(509) 449-6606 (cell)

This publication is intended to provide public information and resources for natural resources and agricultural rehabilitation only.

BE PREPARED!

The fire has increased the risk of flash floods, so keep an eye to the sky. Know what the weather is doing around you and be prepared to move to higher ground if necessary. Have an emergency kit ready in case it becomes necessary for you to leave your home in a hurry. Be sure you have enough medications, water, clothing and non-perishable food to last 14 days.

If your home survived the fire, it is highly recommended that you obtain National Flood Insurance Program home insurance from FEMA. Speak with your insurance agent for details.

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Quick Landowner Assessment

Was your **property within the burn zone** or nearby?

Consider obtaining FEMA National Flood Insurance Program insurance to protect assets against flash flooding. Prepare for possible flash flooding. Contact your insurance agent for more details. Other applicable programs are listed in this booklet.

Did you have **structural or other damages** to your property?

Check with your insurance agent about your applicable home, farm and other insurance that may cover part of the damages.

Are you an **agricultural producer** (make money from livestock or crop production?

Check with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine if any of their emergency assistance programs may apply. **See pages 10 and 11.**

Are you a **small forest landowner**?

Contact the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Forest Landowner Office for advice and assistance. **See page 8.**

Do you have **wildlife concerns or conflicts?**

Contact the WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and/or the Mule Deer Foundation for advice. **See pages 14 and 15.**

Would you like assistance with basic site evaluation and guidance on appropriate treatments or available funding assistance?

Contact Okanogan Conservation District, the Carlton Complex Assistance Network and/or the Methow Conservancy. **See pages 7, 8, and 9.**

Does your property **share a border with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management?**

Contact the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for advice and assistance. **See page 12.**

Does your property **contain fish-bearing creeks?**

Contact the Okanogan Conservation District, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation and/or Yakama Nation Fisheries for possible cost-share assistance. **See pages 7, 12, 13, 14.**

Do you plan to do **work in or near a wetland, stream or river?**

Contact the Okanogan County Planning Office, Army Corps of Engineers and the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for approvals/permits before beginning work. Expedited HPA permits for in-stream work are available through the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. **See page 14.**

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Okanogan Conservation District

Contact: Kirsten Cook (509) 422-0855 x.100

kirstenc@okanogancd.org www.okanogancd.org/Carlton

Programs:

- **Clearinghouse** for landowners to report natural resource and agriculture infrastructure damage and post-fire resource concerns. Reports will be used to seek funding for cost-share grants to assist landowners with post-fire recovery actions
- **Site visits** for landowners to determine resource needs and appropriate actions. Conservation planners will evaluate each site's suitability for potential financial assistance.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection** - landowner cost-share for the most critical areas. Two parts: immediate threat to life and property, and longer-term recovery.
- **Native Plant Sale** - trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grass seed native to Okanogan County. Pre-order September-January, pickup in April.
- **Firewise** - workshops to learn techniques to reduce risk of loss due to wildfire. Site assessments for individual properties; potential cost-share for forest thinning, fuels reduction, etc.

Methow Conservancy

Contact: any office staff (509) 996-2870

info@methowconservancy.org www.methowconservancy.org

Programs:

- Site Visits – staff will make a free site visit to a burned property to answer landowner restoration questions
- Publications – online and hard copy resources for restoration post-fire, including fire-specific resources and the Shrub-Steppe Restoration Handbook (http://methowconservancy.org/fire.html and http://methowconservancy.org/restoration.html)
- Community Education Programs – willing to coordinate community field trips/ workshops on fire loss prevention and land restoration
- Connections – willing to play a constructive role in making connections between landowners and agencies on issues like fence repair, finding pasture lands, etc.

Carlton Complex Assistance Network

Contact: any staff (509) 669-9429

www.CCANrelief.org

Programs:

- **Varied assistance to Carlton Complex fire victims** - "locals helping locals" via our main objectives: Relief - Recovery - Resilience. Filling the gap left by private insurance and agency relief via our national funding mechanisms. Matching needs to resources - CCAN has helped place fire-affected individuals and families into homes. CCAN has participated in non-hazardous material cleanup and fence rebuilding. CCAN is a member of the Long Term Recovery Organization, working in partnership with people and organizations that are helping rebuild our community.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Steve Harris (509) 684-7474

steven.harris@dnr.wa.gov www.dnr.wa.gov

Programs:

- **Technical assistance** - Assessing tree loss and likelihood of survival, guidelines for salvage logging and adjustments in value of timber. Forest Practice application, logging permits.

www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_overview.aspx

- **Eastern WA Cost-share program** - 50% funding for fuels reduction, thinning, pruning and brush removal. Requires site visit and pre-approval.

www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/fp_sflo_fs_ewcostshareapp.pdf

- **Technical Assistance** - wildfire risk assessments

National Weather Service

Contact: Katherine Rowden (509) 244-0110 x. 228

katherine.rowden@noaa.gov www.weather.gov/spokane

Programs:

- Provides weather and river forecasts and issues watches and warnings for potentially hazardous weather or flash floods. Also has a post-fire/weather/flash flood webpage. Can also provide technical assistance to place early warning rain gauges and assess flash flood risk.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Farm Services Agency

Contact: Gary Breiler (any staff can assist) (509) 422-3292

gary.breiler@wa.usda.gov http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov

Programs:

- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** - provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters.

- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster.

- **Emergency Conservation Program** - provides emergency funding and technical assistance to agricultural producers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for implementing emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Includes fencing, irrigation, stock water systems.

- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** - provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland planted specifically for grazing. Also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that suffered losses on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if the producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by weather.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact: Sarah Troutman-Zahn (509) 422-2750 x.119

Sarah.troutman.zahn@wa.usda.gov www.nrcs.usda.gov

Programs:

- **Wildfire Initiative** - Livestock operators may be eligible for payments to NOT graze private lands while they recover from the fire. This money can be used to find alternate feed/pasture while allowing native bunchgrasses time to recover.

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - Special Signup. Potential assistance for agricultural producers to replace conservation practices that burned that are not otherwise eligible for the Emergency Conservation Program through the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

Contact: Chris Johnson (509) 429-1232 chrisj@methowsalmon.org

or Jessica Goldberg (509) 997-0028 jessica.@methowsalmon.org

Programs:

- Requesting initial funding to assist private landowners with initial assessment and treatement of burned areas in Beaver Creek and Frazier Creek. To secure funding for more intensive post-fire restoration, MSRF and our partners will need accurate information on the extent of damage and vegetation types that existed before the fire.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Contact: Erik Ellis (509) 665-2141 edellis@blm.gov www.blm.gov

Programs:

- **National Fire Plan Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation** - for BLM land and contiguous parcels. Grant program for emergency stabilization to deal with Immediate life/safety concerns and threats to endangered habitat within the first year, plus longer term funds for rehabilitation activities in the first three years post-fire. **Must submit request within 21 days of fire containment.**
- Partner on the **Fire Adapted Communities** program www.fireadapted.org
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan** - assistance to communities to prepare for wildfire

Yakama Nation Fisheries

Contact: Jarred Johnson (509) 881-1462

johj@yakamafish-nsn.gov http://yakamafish-nsn.gov

Programs:

- **Technical Assistance -** assistance for Methow Valley landowners whose anadromous fish-bearing creeks and riparian zones have been impacted by the fire.

Okanogan Co. Noxious Weed Control Board

Contact: Anna Lyon (509) 422-7165

alyon@co.okanogan.wa.us www.okanogancounty.org/nw

Programs:

- Seeking funding to assist landowners with weed treatment and possible reseeding to reduce weed infestations post-fire.
- Technical assistance - noxious weed identification and control information.

U.S. Forest Service

Contact: Mike Liu (509) 996-4003 mliu@fs.fed.us

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/about-forest/offices

Programs:

- No direct landowner assistance, but will be providing opportunities for information sharing and cross-training with other agencies and organizations. Burned Area Recovery Team (BAER) is beginning broad-scale assessments, including satellite imagery of burn severity. Hazard trees on FS land along state highways will be removed. USFS will assist with placement of emergency flood monitors and share seed mix recommendations with other agencies. Possible creation of a Carlton Complex fire info center for 1-2 years post-fire to be hosted as USFS online and bricks-and-mortar sites.

Trout Unlimited

Contact: Jeri Timm (509) 881-7690

jtimm@tu.org www.tu.org

Programs:

- Seeking funding to assist landowners with irrigation efficiency projects designed to allow more water in-stream for fish.

WA State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Contacts:

In-stream work and permitting:

Emergency HPA (Permit) Hotline: (360) 902-2537

Methow Basin - Lynda Hofmann (509) 997-9428
lynda.hofmann@dfw.wa.gov

Okanogan Basin: Connie Iten (509) 826-3123
connie.iten@dfw.gov

Range and land management:

Dale Swedberg (509) 826-9877
dale.swedberg@dfw.wa.gov

Wildlife Feeding/Conflicts:

Ellen Heilhecker (509) 429-4584
ellen.heilhecker@dfw.wa.gov

Programs:

- Emergency HPA in-stream work permitting
- Wildlife welfare and conflict questions and recommendations
- Assistance and coordination of range permit transfers and infrastructure improvements

Washington Department of Ecology

Contact: Chris Coffin (509) 575-2821 Chris.coffin@ecy.wa.gov

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wqhome.html

Programs:

- **Water Quality Grant Program** - grant program for water quality projects, including riparian restoration. Funds competitive and not available until Fall of 2015. Contact Okanogan Conservation District (page 6) or other local entities for assistance with grant application process.

Mule Deer Foundation

Contact: Mike Jones (509) 869-0715

mike.jones@hpcs.org www.muledeer.org

Programs:

- Landowner assistance with wildlife-related management questions.
- The mission of the Mule Deer Foundation is to ensure the conservation of mule deer, blacktail deer and their habitats. MDF works with state and federal wildlife agencies, conservation groups, businesses and individuals to further the MDF mission. We're also on the front lines in Washington, D.C., supporting or challenging issues that affect mule deer populations. MDF also believes that promoting the hunting heritage is a key ingredient to furthering our conservation objectives.
- Education programs, such as our M.U.L.E.Y. Youth Camps, (Mindful Understanding Legal Ethical Youth) are aimed at educating the public on hunting, wildlife management and overall respect and enjoyment of our natural resources.

This document is a work in progress. If you have corrections or further information you would like to see included in this document, please contact Terri Williams, Okanogan Conservation District at

(509) 422-0855 x. 5 or terriw@okanogancd.org

Carlton Complex Post-Fire Rehabilitation Treatments

Landowners affected by the fire may continue to struggle with post-fire impacts and rehabilitation on their property. Landowners are encouraged to CAREFULLY walk their properties to assess the damages and potential risks. Potential problems resulting from fires may include:

- Safety issues along property boundaries, roads and buildings.
- **Significant increase in sediment delivery to stream channels**
- **Surface and gully erosion on slopes and possible debris flows down draws**
- Loss of vegetation and forest cover which reduces grazing for livestock & wildlife, degrades habitat, and increases the risk of weed infestations
- Hazards from insect infestations in the fire killed and fire stressed trees

When walking your property, look for items that may potentially plug stream channels and/or culverts, particularly at road crossings. Keep in mind that things that don't normally float (concrete blocks, barbeques, propane tanks, lawn furniture, potted plants, etc.) can float in the event of a flash flood or debris flow. Additional runoff may cause channels to shift, creating additional erosion.

- **Check and remove debris in and near draws and/or in and near culverts. This includes rocks, grass clippings, decking, structures, vegetation, fences across draws, etc.**
- **Secure and/or anchor all possible outdoor items. Move lawn furniture, barbeques, propane tanks, pool covers, etc. inside.**
- Stream work and salvage removal may require special permitting. Please contact the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife for more information.

It may be difficult to visualize the rebirth of a forest or rangeland following a wildfire. However, nature is well equipped for regenerating some fire resistant species such as ponderosa pine trees and shrub-steppe species. You may already notice some grasses and plants recovering on the landscape. Revegetation of burned areas is also imperative for restoring the health of the ecosystem. Some possible treatments include:

- Grass seeding (quick establishment, weed suppression, and forage)
- Forest tree planting (primarily ponderosa pine)
- Riparian plantings along stream corridors

The Okanogan Conservation District is available to assist with site specific questions and provide assistance for landowners as they begin to restore the landscape following the fire. Please contact us at (509) 422-0855 ext. 5 for more information.

Restoration Needs for Lands Impacted by Carlton Complex Fire

Landowners looking for assistance with restoration of their lands should contact the Okanogan Conservation District. The District is acting as a clearinghouse for private landowners seeking assistance with issues such as restoration of grazing lands, repair of fences, repair of irrigation systems, restoration of riparian trees and shrubs, general reseeding, or erosion control. In the forested areas, issues may also include removal or chipping of burned materials, erosion control and replanting.

At this time, there are limited funds available; however, the District is actively working together with the groups/ agencies listed in box below to locate additional sources of both technical and financial assistance for private landowners. This group will likely grow as sources of assistance are located. Receiving requests from landowners will help to focus the search for funding.

Landowners seeking assistance should be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name
- Contact information (phone and e-mail)
- Address
- Tax Parcel # (if known)
- Description of the damage
  - Number of acres affected
  - Describe conditions before the fire (trees, shrubs, grass?)
  - Agricultural infrastructure impacts (irrigation systems, fences)
  - Livestock Impacts (loss of grazing lands or loss of livestock)
  - Concerns about soil erosion (both by wind and water)
  - Concerns about forest conditions (fire hazards, dead and dying trees, etc.)

Okanogan Conservation District

Address:

1251 South 2nd Ave, Rm 102
Okanogan, WA 98840

Contact:

Kirsten Cook
(Although all staff answering phones at the number below can take your information)

Phone:

(509) 422-0855 ext 5

E-mail:

kirstenc@okanogancd.org

Agencies working together with the Okanogan Conservation District include: Washington Conservation Commission, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Natural Resources, etc.

Carlton Complex Fire 2014 Request for Assistance

Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone:	E-Mail:
Property Address:	
Tax Parcel #:	
Number of Acres (total property & burned):	
Are you an agricultural producer (make $$ from livestock or crop production)?	
Did you have damage to ag infrastructure (fences, irrigation system, etc.)? Be specific about damages.	
Description of property before fire (eg. Forestland, shrub-steppe, rangeland, pastureland, types of vegetation, etc.):	
Description of post fire conditions and resource concerns/needs:	
Name of staff taking report:	
Date and Time of Initial Report:	

Please include a signed permission to access agreement along with your request for assistance. We will always contact you before visiting your property.

Permission to Access Agreement

Between

Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. 2nd Ave, Room 102, Okanogan WA 98840

Phone (509) 422-0855 Ext. 5

And

_____ (landowner name)

I, _____, grant access to my property (tax parcel _____) to the Okanogan Conservation District (OCD), its employees, representatives, or contractors for the expressed purpose of assessing conditions after the Carlton Complex Fire and planning a resource improvement project. By signing this form, I certify that I am the legal owner of this property and therefore can grant permission to access to the OCD. I understand that as the property owner, I have a duty to disclose to the OCD all defects and safety hazards on the property that are known to or reasonably discoverable by me. I also understand that signing this agreement does not authorize the OCD to perform or have performed any construction activities.

I understand that the OCD shall indemnify and hold me harmless from and against any loss, damage, or injury caused by, or on behalf of, or through the fault of the OCD. I shall indemnify and hold OCD harmless from and against any loss, damage, or injury caused by, or on behalf of, or through the fault of myself. Nothing in this statement shall require either of us to indemnify the other against either of our own willful or negligent misconduct.

I understand that this agreement becomes effective upon receipt of the signed form and shall terminate 24 months from that date, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. I may terminate this agreement at any time by submitting a written notification to the OCD.

_____ _____

Printed Name Signature Date

_____ _____

Address City, State, Zip

_____

Phone Number