

Your Wildlife-friendly Property Can Be Firewise Too!

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Conservation Planner



Whooo says you can't balance habitat
needs and wildfire preparedness?
Photo credit Patti Cockfield.

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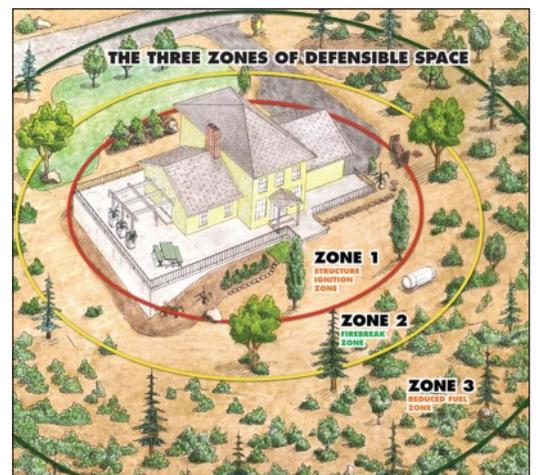
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Okanogan County has an abundance of two things: wildfire and wildlife. By taking action to reduce wildfire risk around your home, you may feel that you are reducing the wildlife habitat value of the land. While it's true that removing fuels like trees, fruit-bearing shrubs, and brush piles can reduce the diversity of food and cover that attracts wildlife, it is possible to provide habitat while maintaining defensible space around the home. It simply requires some extra time and thought in the planning stage.

The first step is understanding the different zones of defensible space around your home. Zone 1, the **Home Ignition Zone**, includes the home and its immediate surroundings up to 30'. This area should have the least amount of fuels, and vegetation should be managed to reduce the chance that fire can move from the landscape to the home, or that airborne embers can find a receptive place to smolder and burn. For a personalized evaluation of the home ignition zone around your house, contact Okanogan CD for a free wildfire risk assessment.



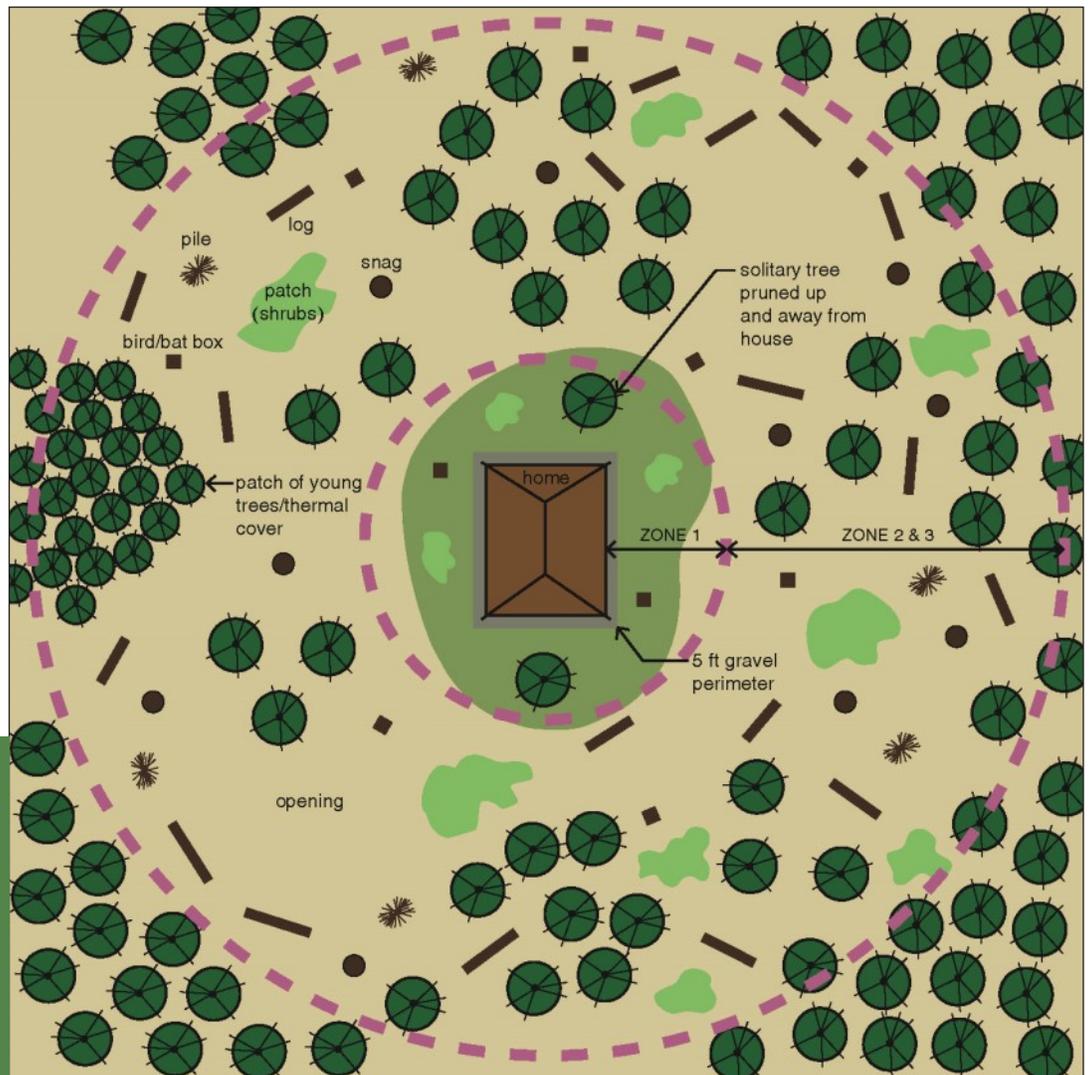
Zone 2 & 3 (the area 30' up 200' from the house, depending on slope) provide the most habitat flexibility. The table and diagram on the next page provide examples of wildlife features appropriate for the various zones. *Continued*

Wildlife-friendly Firewise Homes

WILDLIFE FEATURES IN FIREWISE ZONES

<p>ZONE 1 - 30' FROM THE HOME</p>	<p>Solitary trees pruned up (6-10') and away from the house are appropriate in this zone. Maintain non-flammable material or low growing vegetation at the base of the trees. Maintain adequate distance between shrubs and trees, and do not place shrubs next to the house.</p>	<p>For the highest wildlife value, consider deciduous trees such as Black Hawthorn, Suksdorf Hawthorn, and Western Crabapple, and Rocky Mountain Maple. Hang bird feeders and install nesting boxes within view of your windows.</p>
<p>ZONE 2 & 3 - 30-200' FROM THE HOME</p>	<p>Break up continuous paths of fuel, providing 10-20' breaks between trees, shrubs, and wildlife features. Open areas are beneficial for wildlife and provide fuel breaks between tree patches, shrub patches, habitat piles, and snags.</p>	<p>Provide wildlife habitat through the "SLOPPS" method in this area away from the home. Snags, logs, openings, patches, and piles provide cover, nesting, and feeding areas for local wildlife.</p>

Ultimately, landowners need to evaluate their own level of comfort when it comes to balancing wildfire risk reduction with wildlife management goals. To learn more about firewise, the SLOPPS method for wildlife habitat, or to schedule a site visit to explore your options, please contact Allisa Carlson at 509-422-0855 x. 111. or email allisa@okanogancd.org.



SLOPPS: Snags, Logs, Openings, Patches, Piles, and Shrubs

An acronym for wildlife features that will enhance habitat on your property!

Okanogan Wins Back-to-Back Envirothons!

On May 23 and 24, Okanogan Conservation District hosted the 2018 Washington State Envirothon Competition. This event challenges high school students to step into the shoes of natural resource professionals in the fields of wildlife, soils & land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, and this year's current issue topic, range management. Eight teams from all over the state came to Conconully test their natural resource knowledge and skills.



From L to R: April Ashworth (teacher), Austin Earley, Dylan Streeter, Hailey Shiflett, Jasmine Yusi, Justin Stanley.

For the second year in a row, Okanogan High School's Envirothon team won the State event, and will be heading to the National Envirothon Competition in Pocatello, Idaho to represent Washington State. In addition to winning the overall competition, the team earned top scores in wildlife and rangeland management. All team members are students in the Ecology of the Okanogan science class. Four out of the five team members graduated in June, and will be pursuing higher education and careers in natural resources. We are very proud!

From the Classroom to a Career

Justin Stanley, Okanogan High School Class of 2018 and member of the winning Envirothon team, joined the Okanogan Conservation District staff June 4 as our summer intern. He will be heading to the University of Idaho in August to pursue a degree in Rangeland Management. Justin spent two years in the Ecology of the Okanogan science class at Okanogan High School; "through this class I connected with many professional biologists in the area...I learned the true importance of our natural resources and the proper ways to manage them". We hope this is the start of a long tradition of interns who are Ecology of the Okanogan alumni. Welcome to the Okanogan CD team!



Help us get the team to Nationals!

Costs of registration, travel, and meals are significant and we are seeking donations to offset the costs. Contributions to Okanogan CD are tax-deductible.

To donate, please mail or drop off checks at:
1251 South 2nd Ave,
Room 102
Okanogan, WA 98840

Make checks out to:
Okanogan Conservation District and include "Envirothon" on the memo line.



1251 S. 2nd Avenue, Rm 102
Okanogan, WA 98840

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Okanogan Conservation District staff completed two streamside planting projects this spring: one along Pete Creek in the Methow, and another along the Okanogan River. Thinking about planting native trees and shrubs? Check out our plant and nursery lists at www.okanogancd.org/residents. If you have property on a creek, river, or wetland, we're here to help if you have erosion or water quality concerns, or want some ideas on the right plants for your property management goals. You can reach us at:

Okanogan Conservation District

www.okanogancd.org

509-422-0855



NOTICE: the Okanogan County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan will be submitted in June for review by a technical panel of state agencies. The draft is available on our website. Please submit questions or comments to amy@okanogancd.org.