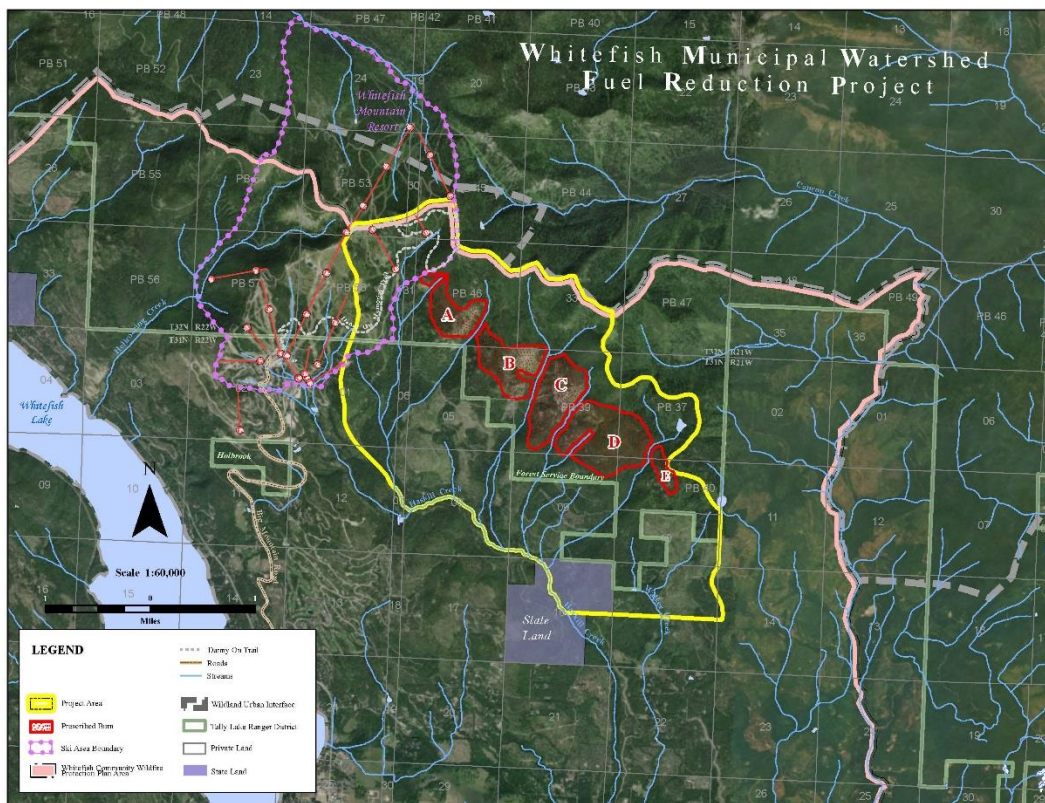


FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes for Thursday, August 23rd, 0900-1100 at DNRC

Attendance: Ali Ulwelling (DNRC), Keith VanBroeke (Flathead National Forest, AFMO), Allen Branine (FMO/Service Forester, Swan Unit DNRC), Rick Trembath (all-around fire guy), Zack Miller (Log Purchaser, Weyerhaeuser), Lincoln Chute (Fire Service Area Manager, Flathead County), Turner Askew (Suncrest HOA/Clack-Evergreen), Jeremy Pris (FMO Kalispell Unit), Jim Pffanestiel (Wolftail Pines HOA), Aaron Hughes (VP First American Title Co.), Carol Daly (FEPC), Bruce (Suncrest HOA), Wyatt Frampton (Forest Action Plan Project Manager), Rich Blaney (Real Estate/Contractor/Fire Guy), Anna Lang (Disaster Diagnostics), Randy Sundberg (Many Lakes HOA and more).

Next Meeting: Friday, September 27th, location to be determined.

Flathead National Forest, Keith VanBroeke with fire season update and plans for prescribed fire season. Fire season has been more “average” than the past few. A welcome reprieve for most There are several prescribed fire projects on federal and state lands for this fall, some are high profile and they will be engaging in additional outreach to let people know: Red Whale, Radnor, Belton, Middle Fork, Swan Island Unit, Spotted Bear, Lindbergh Ridge, and Whitefish Municipal Watershed (Big Mountain). There will be staffed Fire Information stations with maps and FAQs to help folks understand the purpose and operations of Rx fire. Locations for information will be Depot Park in Whitefish, Big Mountain, and the Flathead National Forest office. (The rooftop of Casey’s has also been suggested.) A map of the Whitefish project:



- Planned fire activity on USFS lands allows for communities/properties in proximity to be eligible for Hazardous Fuels funding, identifying these areas is part of the grant application process.
- While prescribed fire operations may be occurring, it is still not open burning season for the public until after October 1. This should be part of the fall messaging.

Wyatt Frampton, Forest Action Plan Project Manager – Wyatt gave an update on the Forest Action Plan Advisory Council including the plan to create an [Arc HUB Community Engagement Software](#) as part of the communications plan. Check out an example here: [Johns Creek Example](#) . We have the opportunity to share *some of our local success stories* on the new HUB. Wyatt is gathering partner data together to illustrate the forest health conditions across the State, to show opportunities for community engagement and fuels reduction and/or forest management. One conversation of note was the recognition that airshed restrictions are at times hampering the ability to get fuels/forest projects through to completion. We look forward to updates on this exciting project!

Anna Lang – Serves on FEMA’s National Advisory Council and shared information about the [FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) webinar series. She will be providing more information through a presentation at our next meeting. I invite you to learn more about Anna, an internationally recognized structural engineer with extensive experience in disaster response and mitigation planning, and I look forward to her contributions and participation in our wildfire discussions!

Carol Daly, NW Montana Hazardous Fuels Program – Carol reiterated that they have been busy taking calls, that the shift towards more focused grant project areas is affecting their ability to serve those who are interested in fuel reduction on their property IF and WHEN they fall outside of the “priority” areas. Naturally, this is frustrating. Is there another way that we can help some who are outside those defined areas?

Zack Miller, Weyerhaeuser – Have folks call Zack for non-saw product. They are accepting 2 ½” at 12’ at a minimum. This is a lot of what defines ladder fuels and fuels reduction in the Home Ignition Zone. It’s not a really money-maker, but it helps folks get rid of the material.

Randy Sundberg, Many Lakes HOA – Randy has been continuing talks with Dave Prunty and the County Roads Department about getting work done on the roadsides. No luck with the County Parks Department. (Zack, did you ever have a chance to look at the Many Lakes Parks to determine feasibility of work there?) The second egress point that Randy had helped identify and improve a couple of years ago is now locked. Rolling Ridge has firmed up their stance that only residents of Rolling Ridge can use that stretch of road.

Ali Ulwelling – Always wants to Thank You for being part of this discussion and welcome those who are new!

- **Smokey Sign** has *finally* been ordered and we look forward to seeing what they produce and if we would like to tweak the design and order more for placement in locations this spring.
- Rick Trembath is working with Peter Kolb and SAF on the **pile-burning workshop** for November 21. We will continue getting the word out and begin registration by the end of September.
- [Building for Wildfire Summit](#), Big Sky – Ali and Anna will be attending. We will share notes at the September meeting and would like to see us plan for something like this here in the Northwest!