

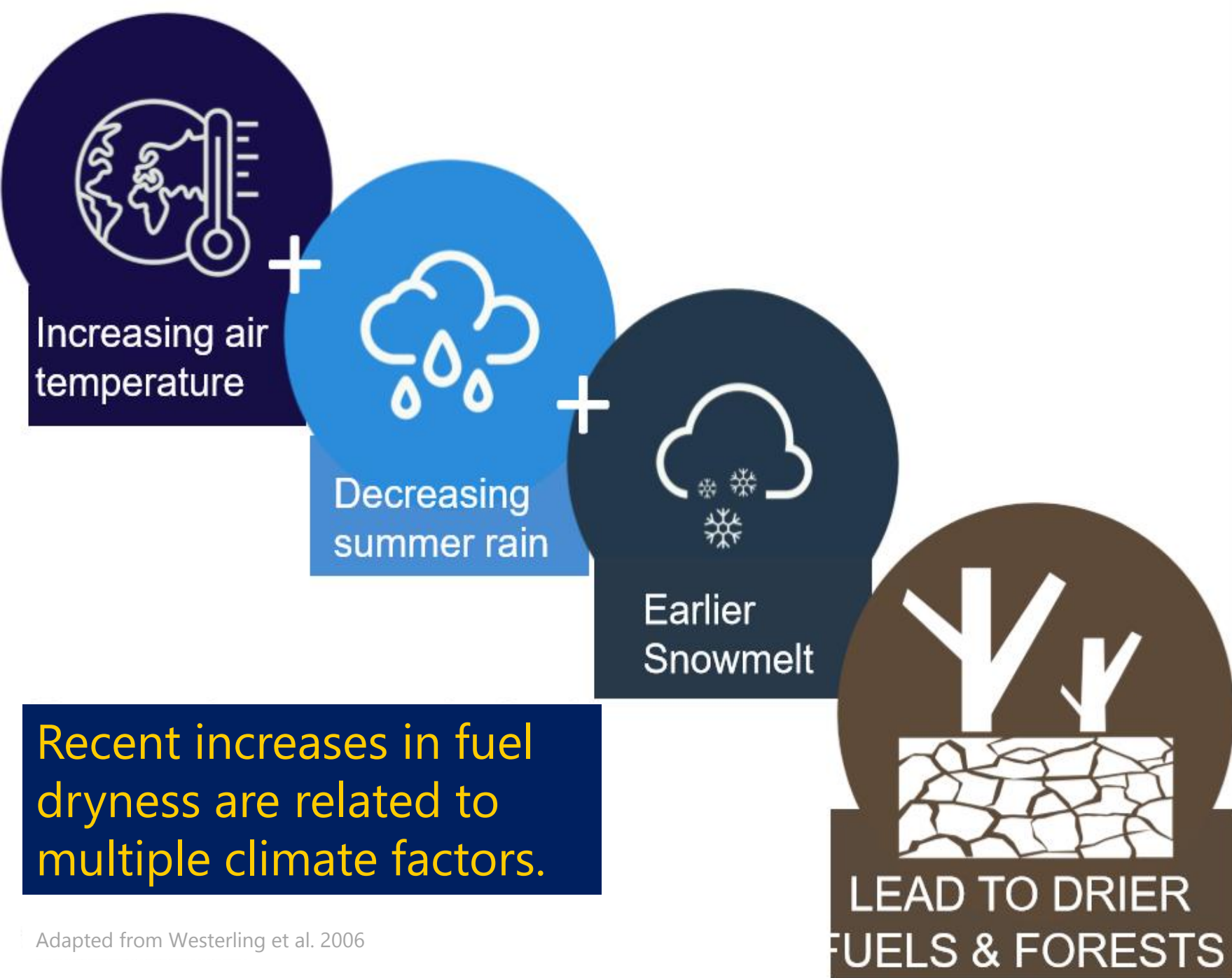
Enhancing the Wildfire Resilience of Your Property in a Habitat Friendly Way

April 2020



“Habitat friendly” means that practices suggested within this presentation are intended to improve the wildfire safety of your property and enhance the health of the ecosystem you live within.





Climate change is creating conditions that are more conducive to wildfire.



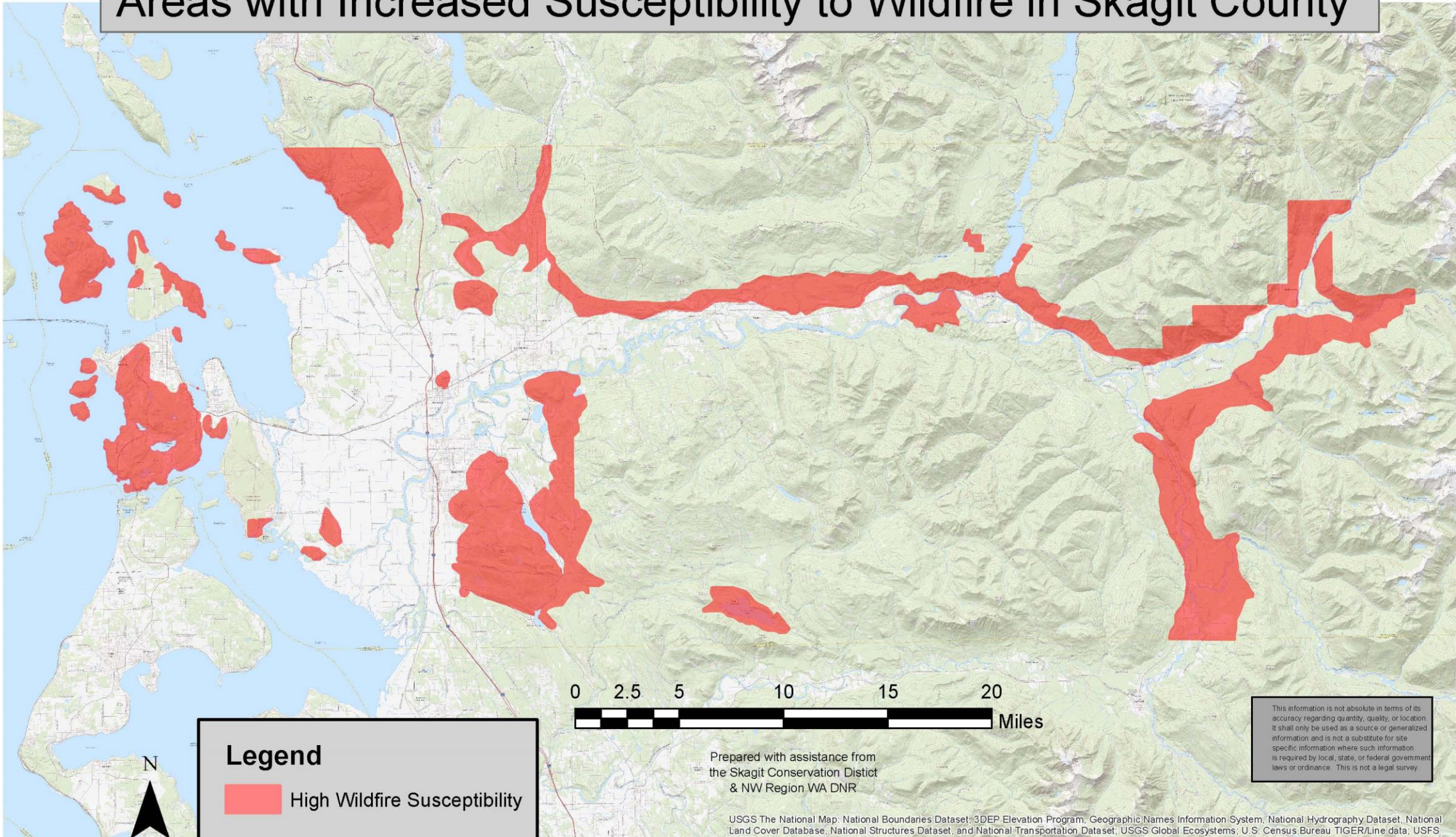
Dying from the top down

Effects of multiple drought years are shown in stressed & dying red cedars and other iconic PNW conifers



Browning boughs and needles, defoliation

Areas with Increased Susceptibility to Wildfire in Skagit County



Legend

 High Wildfire Susceptibility

0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles

Prepared with assistance from
the Skagit Conservation District
& NW Region WA DNR

This information is not absolute in terms of its accuracy regarding quantity, quality, or location. It shall only be used as a source or generalized information and is not a substitute for site specific information where such information is required by local, state, or federal government laws or ordinance. This is not a legal survey.

USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset; 3DEP Elevation Program; Geographic Names Information System; National Hydrography Dataset; National Land Cover Database; National Structures Dataset; and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal

Potential Ignition Sources

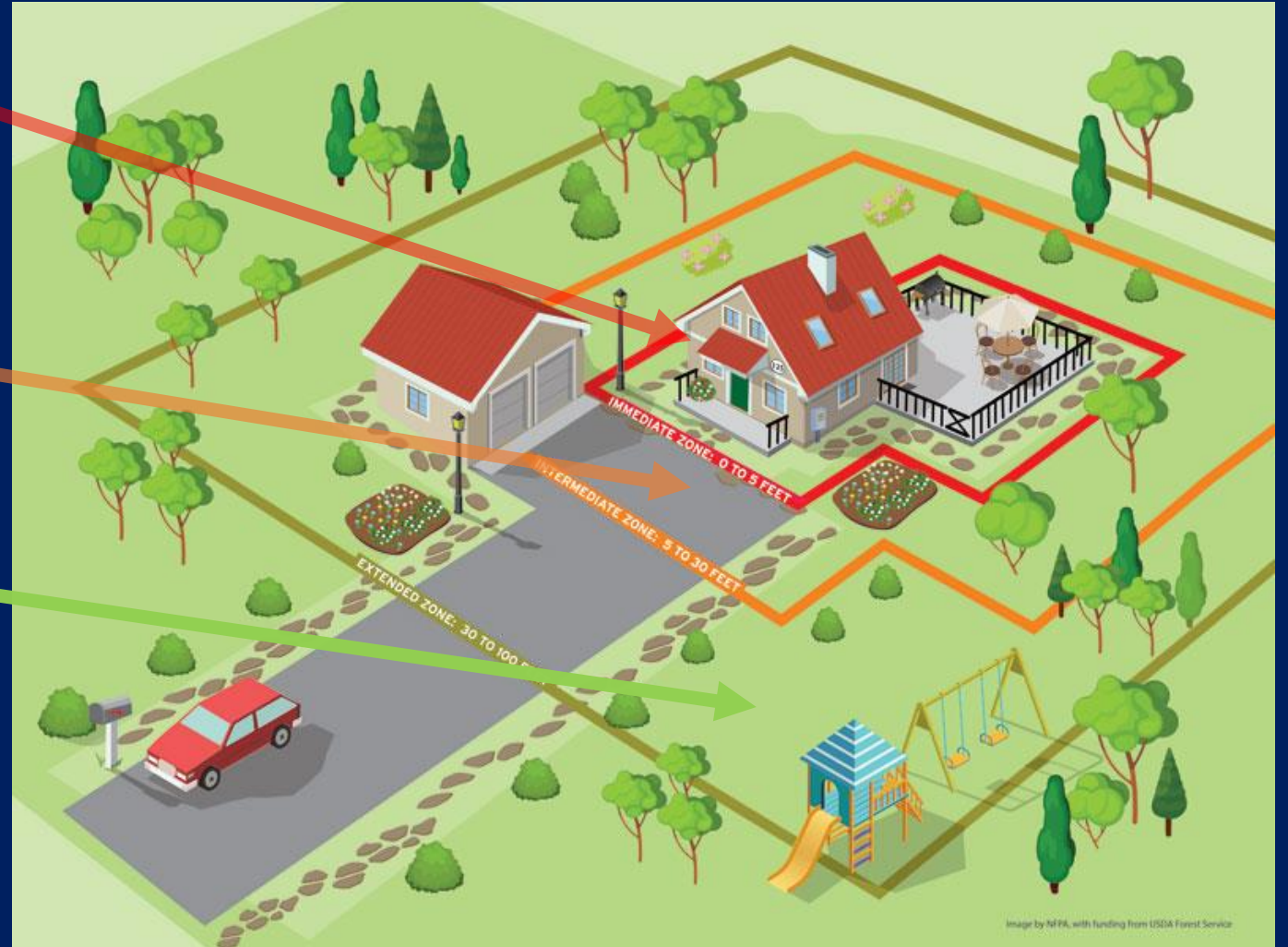




RESEARCH SHOWS THAT HOMES IGNITE DUE TO THE
CONDITION OF THE HOME AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT,
UP TO 200' FROM THE FOUNDATION. THIS IS CALLED
THE HOME IGNITION ZONE

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)

- IMMEDIATE ZONE – 0 to 5'
- INTERMEDIATE ZONE – 5' to 30'
- EXTENDED ZONE – 30' to 100'/200'



Create Defensible Space

Areas where construction and vegetation modifications have been made that reduce wildfire risk



THE ROOF



Class A-rated roofs have the highest resistance to fire. This includes metal, fiberglass asphalt composition shingle, concrete or clay tile.



Untreated wood shake roofs are extremely flammable.

THE ROOF

Roof ratings can change depending on the treatments and materials used in making the product and assembling them.



For example, chemical and pressure treated wood shake and shingle roofs can be Class-A if they have a fire-resistant underlayment when installed.

For more information on roof ratings and fire-resistance, visit the link below.

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseFactSheetsRoofingMaterials.ashx>

Maintenance is Key

Clear flammable debris
from roof & gutters



Inspect shingles & roof
tiles; repair and replace
loose or missing



Pay special attention to
heat trap areas like this

SIDING & WINDOWS



Fiber-cement, brick, stucco siding are more ignition-resistant than wood or vinyl

Dual-pane, tempered glass windows withstand more heat



Plastic skylights can melt.
Maintain casing around skylights.

VENTS

Clear back flammable materials and install 1/8" metal screening on all vents



ELEVATED DECKS, PORCHES, FENCING



Never store flammable material underneath decks or porches.



Put gravel under raised decks, keep grass short.



A wood fence attached to the house can carry fire to the house.

For more information on fire-resistant decking, visit the link below.

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseFactSheetsDecks.ashx>

Adjacent to the Home

Keep the first 3-5 feet around your home a non-flammable area

3-5 feet



Rake dead leaves and pine needles back from house



YAY! MULCH!

- Helps maintain soil moisture
- Moderates soil temperatures
- Discourages weeds
- Prevents erosion & compaction
- Looks pretty

BUT...

**DO NOT PUT
ORGANIC MULCH
WITHIN 5' OF A
STRUCTURE**

MULCHES TO AVOID

- Shredded rubber
- Shredded western red cedar
- Pine needles or sawdust-type mulches



MULCHING TIPS

- Water mulch when watering plants (damp mulch is less likely to smolder)
- Recommended maximum mulch thickness = 4"
- Use non-flammable material against house & put organic mulch outside of that



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

**Your landscape
doesn't have to
look like the
surface of the
moon**

WWW.NEWS.CN

**It can look like
this!**



USE FUEL BREAKS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

This helps keep surface fire from spreading to your structures through continuous paths of landscaping.

Driveways



Rock features



Short grass



Cluster Plantings



Landscaping areas should be broken up into clusters



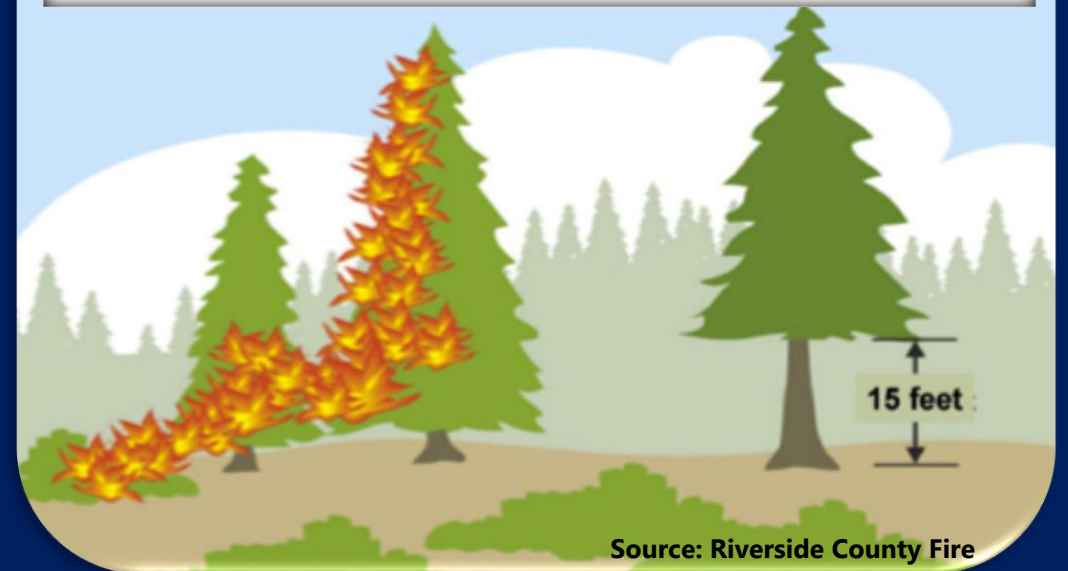
Keep lawn and native grasses mowed to 4" height

CREATE VERTICAL SPACE BETWEEN PLANTS

Continuous vegetation from the ground up to large trees creates a path for to burn from the ground up into the tops of trees where it becomes much more dangerous and difficult to put out.



To reduce the chance of fire climbing a tree, remove the lower tree limbs 6-15ft from the ground (or the lower 1/3 of branches on smaller trees).



Source: Riverside County Fire

USE NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

Native plants thrive in our conditions. A plant that is thriving also tends to be less flammable.



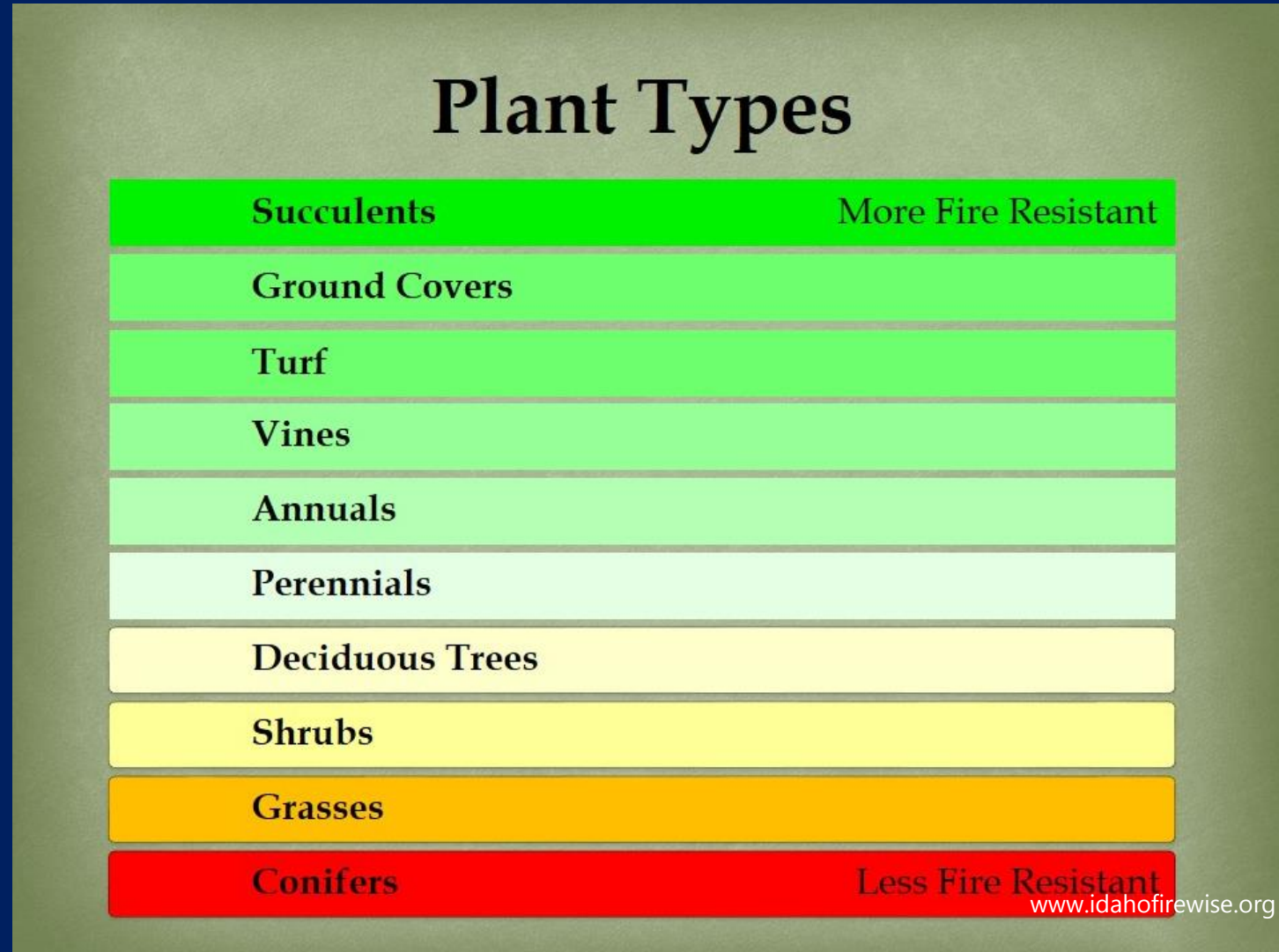
USE NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

**Native plants help
improve water quality
by filtering pollutants
from runoff.**



Fire –Resistant Native Plants

- have higher moisture content in their leaves
- have little build-up of dead vegetation
- are more resistant to drought
- low-compact growth form



Plants: Flammable plants

- are water-stressed
- accumulate dry, dead material
- are evergreen
- have loose or papery bark
- have stiff leathery, small, or fine lacy leaves
- high oil or resin content



Juniper



Arborvitae



Scotch broom



Blackberries

5454461

Examples of fire-resistant native plants

Great for attracting pollinators & birds

Oregon White Oak



Courtesy of Dana Kelley Bressette nativeplants.pnw.com

Quaking Aspen



Courtesy of nwplants.com

Golden Currant



Courtesy of nwplants.com

Sea Pink/Thrift



Courtesy of glrbg

Beargrass



Courtesy Terry Glase, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



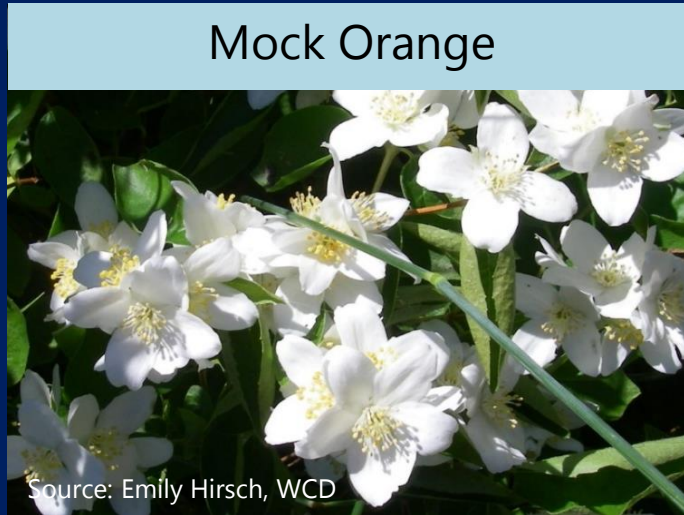
Pacific Rhododendron

Courtesy of nwplants.com



Red-osier Dogwood

Courtesy of nwplants.com



Mock Orange

Source: Emily Hirsch, WCD



Nookta rose

Source: Emily Hirsch, WCD



Pacific Crabapple

Courtesy of Keir Morse



Red Flowering Currant

Courtesy of nwplants.com



Evergreen Huckleberry

Courtesy of nwplants.com

Propane Tanks

Remove vegetation from underneath and around propane tanks



Ensure that they are maintained properly so the venting feature works



Other Considerations



Dispose of heavy accumulation of dead plant material – slash or blowdown



Manage/reduce invasive species



Thin unhealthy understory trees to reduce competition during drought



Consider timing and caution of activities that could affect bird nesting. March to August is prime nesting time.

Other Considerations



Keep canopy cover to provide shade, reduced soil temperatures and retain soil moisture



Incorporate paths that can be used by firefighters for access and to lay hose

Skagit Conservation District Resources

- FREE wildfire risk assessments
- Firewise USA® guidance
- Presentations & outreach events
- Assistance with neighborhood-level risk assessments



<http://www.skagitcd.org/wildfire>

Forestry Resources

Forest Stewardship Program - DNR

Matt Provencher

Western WA Stewardship Forester

360-902-1494

360-819-7143

www.dnr.wa.gov



WSU Extension Forestry

www.forestry.wsu.edu

THANK YOU!

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