

**Tolt Triangle Fire Council Community Wildfire
Protection Plan
January 2005**

Table of Contents

1.0 Motivation

- 1.1 Recent Fire History
- 1.2 Past Fire History
- 1.3 Changing Landscape
- 1.4 Changing Climate

2.0 Area of Concern

- 2.1 Tolt Triangle Fire Council
- 2.2 Neighborhood Descriptions
 - 2.2.1 Tolt River Highlands
 - 2.2.2 Lake Joy
 - 2.2.3 North Lake Joy Estates
 - 2.2.4 Moss Lake Estates
 - 2.2.5 The Reserve at Lake Joy
- 2.3 Surrounding Environment and Large Tree Farm Neighbors
- 2.4 Tolt Triangle Fire Council Defined Geographically

3.0 Collaboration

4.0 Committees

- 4.1 Emergency Response/Evacuation Plan
- 4.2 Education and Public Relations Plan
- 4.3 Fuel Reduction Plan

5.0 Conclusion

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Participating Organizations
- Appendix 2 Knox Box
- Appendix 3 Tolt River Watershed
- Appendix 4 Forest Practice Permits
- Appendix 5 List of Contractors
- Appendix 6 FireWise Community Assessment

List of Maps

- Map 1: Topographic map of Tolt Triangle Fire Council community
- Map 2: Three-dimensional topographic map of Tolt Triangle Fire Council community

List of Tables

- Table 1: Summary of Tolt Triangle Fire Council Neighborhoods
- Table 2: Tolt Triangle Fire Council list of Collaborators
- Table 3: Permits for Commercial Thin/Harvest
- Table 4: Assessment Results

1.0 Motivation

The community that makes up the Tolt Triangle Fire Council has great spirit, resolve and willingness to take responsibility for the community's ignition potential. This community is willing to take a proactive role in preventing fires.

1.1 Recent Fire History

In 2003 this community became intimately aware of the danger of wild fires. There were three wildfire incidents that summer, the first and largest involved 30 acres on a hillside next to the city of Carnation. Luck and weather was with the neighbors as there was little wind and the fire was contained without much property damage. The two subsequent fires were smaller (one burned about 3 acres and another just a small area around the vehicle that was the cause of the fire) but every bit as worrisome. The situation became more complex following the winter of 2003 – 2004 when several winter storms, including a devastating ice storm, caused many trees to fall and tops to break, increasing the potential fuel load.

1.2 Past Fire History

All the area defined by the Tolt Triangle Fire Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan has historically been managed as forestland. Wildfires in this area happened periodically, typically as a result of the logging practices (railroad), or as a result of catastrophic weather events (lightning). Evidence of historic fires can be observed on some of the large old stumps that possess fire scars.

1.3 Changing Landscape

An argument could be made that logging related fires in this area are a thing of the past due to improved practices, careful regulations and changing land use. An argument could also be made that because of the changing nature of land ownership in this area and the greater density of people living here, the risk of fires is actually greater.

The wildland urban interface indicates a 'mixed bagged' of land stewardship goals and objectives. For example, some of the property owners are managing their properties as tree farms, some are managing their properties as natural preserves, some properties are being converted into hobby farms (animal evacuation needs to be a consideration), and some of the properties are being used as non-developed investments.

The character of the homes in the Tolt Triangle Fire Council area of concern is as varied as the land ownership objectives; there are homes valued at over one million dollars as well as simple trailer homes. Many of these properties are accessed from gravel roads that were not designed for easy access by emergency response vehicles and many of these roads have only one way in and one way out. Access to fire hydrants or any other water source has not been a consideration in community 'design.'

1.4 Changing Climate

The typical weather patterns experienced in the area of concern is relatively predictable. Rainfall in the fall, winter and spring seasons is plentiful (November – May). Summers are hot and dry. These types of weather patterns provide an interesting dynamic for vegetation growth and subsequent fuel accumulation. During the wet seasons, particularly spring, "fuel" grows enthusiastically. During the dry season the "fine fuels" have plenty of opportunities to dry out.

2.0 Area of Concern

The area defined by the Tolt Triangle Fire Council is essentially one large, contiguous forest of more than 5,800 acres. A wildfire anywhere in this area could easily endanger the entire area and any of the over 500 homes or structures in the area. Wildfire has the opportunity to be spread by ground or through the crowns of the trees, or both!

2.1 Tolt Triangle Fire Council

The origin of the Tolt Triangle Fire Council resulted when several concerned residents of the Tolt River Highlands and Lake Joy neighborhoods attended a full day FireWise training session. This was followed by two additional FireWise presentations in both the Lake Joy and Tolt River Highlands neighborhoods where more homeowners learned how to protect their homes from wildfire.

Realizing that both neighborhoods are connected by a contiguous forest, it was determined that a joint plan of action should be devised to reduce the risk of wildfires and improve evacuation routes in case of such an event.

Inspired by the FireWise presentations and collaboration with government agencies, members of both neighborhoods have joined together to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Community meetings involving a broad selection of representatives from the local fire department, King County, Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, City of Seattle, EMS and CERT members (trained by the local Carnation-Duvall Citizen Corps Council) and property owners have been held with a focus on the feasibility of creating such a plan. (Appendix 1 provides information on collaborating organizations)

2.2 Neighborhood Descriptions

In the 5,800+ acres that are within the Tolt Triangle Fire Council boundaries, there are over 900 different parcels and more than 500 homes. The majority of these parcels are organized in four different established and establishing neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has a little different flavor and history, but when it comes to wildfire risk the neighborhoods realize we are all in this together. What follows is a brief description of the neighborhoods.

2.2.1 Tolt River Highlands

In 1996, the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Corporation began selling 20 acre parcels of their holdings above the Tolt River to private individuals for home sites. The area was previously managed as a Douglas Fir timber plantation, with the last harvest and replanting occurring over 30 years ago. In the intervening years, minimal forest management has taken place. In fact, there were no tree thinning operations as would normally occur if the forest were managed for timber production. The result is a dense stand of somewhat unhealthy trees.

This development consists of 120 20+ acre lots, around 2,400 acres of total area. It is called the Tolt River Highlands. The Tolt River Highlands abuts the community of Lake Joy, the city of Carnation, the Tolt Watershed, Moss Lake County Park, and the Tolt River amongst other areas. Since 1996 property owners have been developing their land and moving into the area.

2.2.2 Lake Joy

The Lake Joy community has existed for over 75 years. It was originally a lakeside subdivision of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm (originally owned and managed by Weyerhaeuser). Originally, the subdivision consisted of seasonal-use recreation cabins. Over time, the Lake Joy community has evolved to predominantly year-round residential use. In addition to all of the properties adjacent to the lake, the Lake Joy community includes many properties accessed off the Lake Joy Road. These vary from a dense subdivision with homes on ½ acre lots to small farms with 1 – 10 (or more) acres.

2.2.3 North Lake Joy Estates

North Lake Joy Estates is the result of the subdivision of a Douglas Fir plantation and associated wetlands into 17, 20-acre parcels. The resulting development is similar in nature to the Tolt River Highlands.

2.2.4 The Reserve at Lake Joy

The Reserve at Lake Joy is a community of 20 homes in rural eastern King County just northwest of Lake Joy. The Reserve is situated among 100 acres with designated wetlands scattered throughout providing privacy for residents, homes and for our area wildlife. The homes sites range from two to five acres. All the homes were created with defensible space landscaping incorporated into the covenants and restrictions.

Table 1: Summary of Tolt Triangle Fire Council Neighborhoods

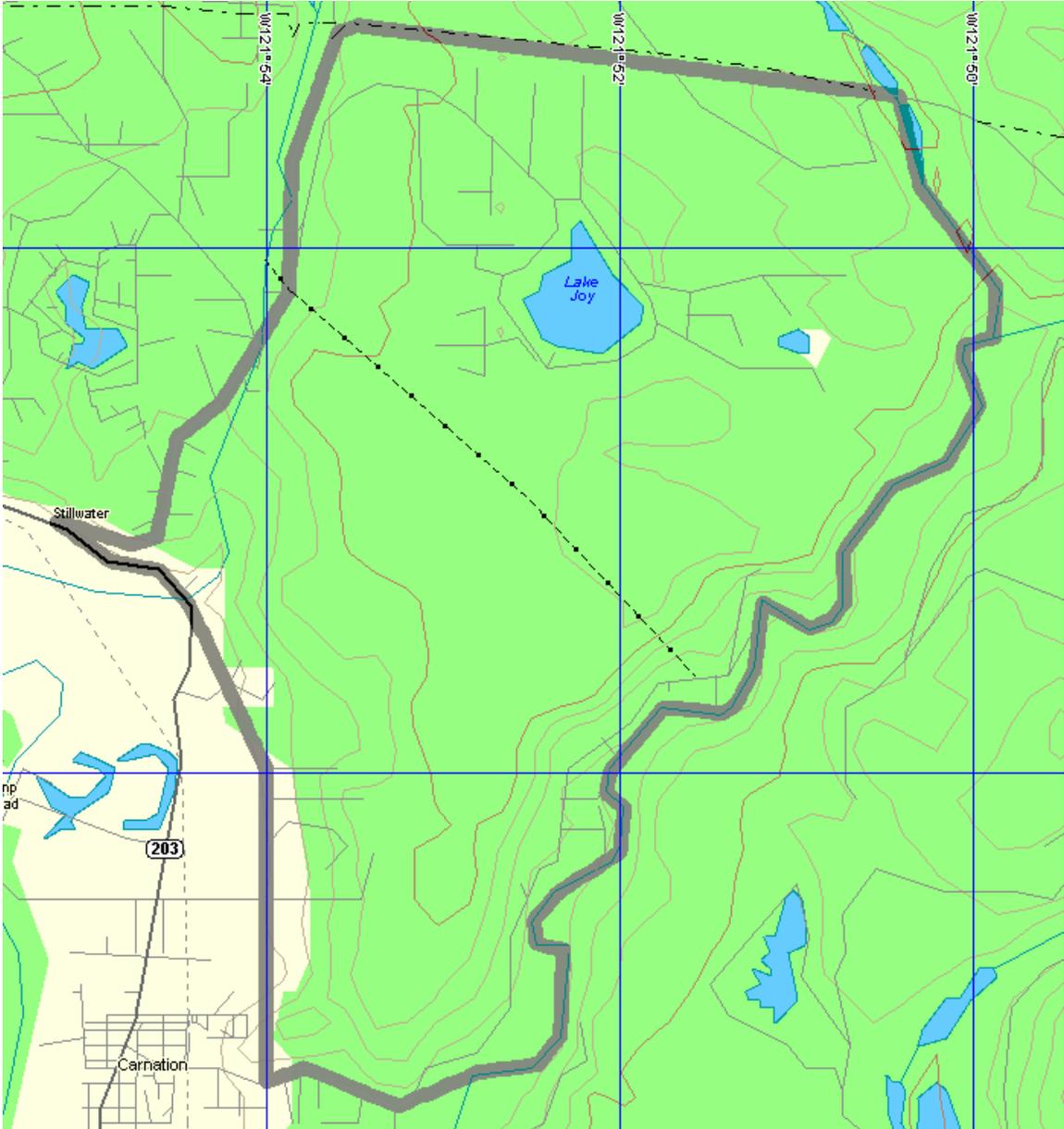
Neighborhood	Access	Hydrant availability	Water access
Tolt River Highlands	Gravel Roads	None	Private wells
Lake Joy Proper	Asphalt Roads	Yes	Public water
Lake Joy extended	Gravel Roads	Some	Public water
North Lake Joy Estates	Gravel Roads	Yes	Private water association
The Reserve at Lake Joy	Asphalt Roads	Yes	Public water

2.3 Surrounding Environment and Large Tree Farm Neighbors

The northeast section abuts the Tolt Watershed and the Markworth State Forest. The Tolt Watershed is managed by the City of Seattle and provides Seattle with about 30 percent of its fresh water supply (Appendix 3 provides more information about the Tolt Watershed). The Markworth State Forest is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a working forest. The east section abuts the Snoqualmie Tree Farm, which is managed by Hancock Forest Management as an industrial forest. North of this area is more wildland urban interface (long term plans are to grow this community to include these areas once TTFC is established). To the east is agricultural and wetland private and public properties along the Snoqualmie River. The southern boundary is the city of Carnation, Washington.

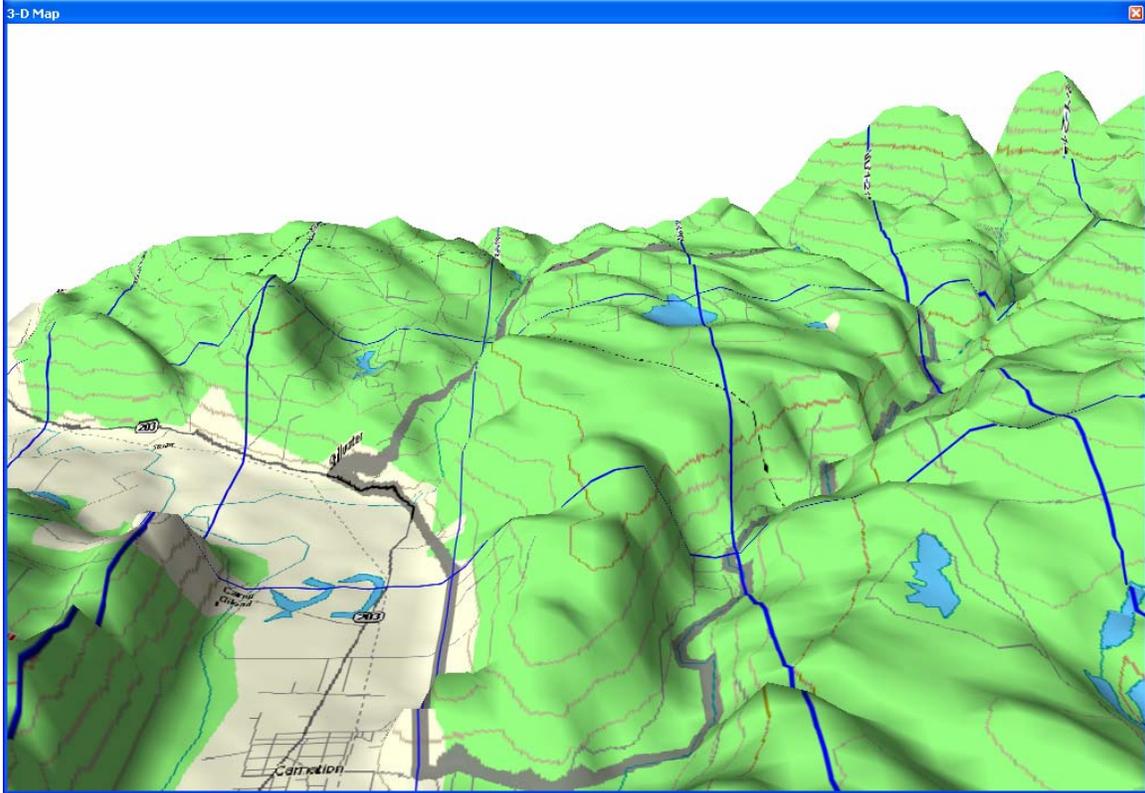
2.4 Tolt Triangle Fire Council Defined Geographically

Using topographic maps and aerial photos, the group defined an area that would be most affected by wild fire. This area is a roughly triangular shape that is bounded by the Tolt River on the east, the Tolt Pipeline road on the north, and Kelly Road and a creek that follows the base of the hill along Highway 203 on the west. These boundaries meet along the northeastern boundary of the city limits of Carnation. This area includes the communities of Tolt River Highlands, Lake Joy, North Lake Joy Estates, The Reserve at Lake Joy, Moss Lake County Park, and other developments. See the following map for details.



Map 1: Topographic map of Tolt Triangle Fire Council community

This area was chosen for its geographical features. Natural or manmade firebreaks, such as the river and various roads, determined the boundaries. The following three-dimensional representation illustrates those geographical features.



Map 2: Three-Dimensional Topographic map of Tolt Triangle Fire Council community
Please note that the vertical features have been exaggerated 8x greater than the horizontal scale to make them more viewable.

3.0 Collaboration

The Tolt Triangle Fire Council is collaborating with state, county, city and local fire districts.

Table 2: Tolt Triangle Fire Council list of Collaborators

Collaborator	Type
Eastside Fire and Rescue	Emergency Response
King County	County Government
Washington State Department of Natural Resources	State Government
City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities	City Government
Town of Carnation	Town Government
US Forest Service	Federal Government
Hancock Forest Management	Private Industry

4.0 Community Wildfire Planning Committees

Building on the spirit and enthusiasm to be proactive regarding fire prevention in the community, areas of FireWise focus were identified and relevant committees were formed. The purposes of the committees are threefold:

1. To provide an opportunity for neighborhood members to share their expertise or interest relative to fire prevention;
2. To provide input to the Tolt Triangle Fire Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
3. To provide opportunities to spread the word about FireWise through neighborhood networking.

Three primary committees were formed with the task of drafting an achievable action plan relative to their committee area of focus. What follows are the action plans created by the following committees:

Emergency Response/Evacuation Committee, Education and Public Relations Committee; Fuel Reduction Committee.

4.1 Emergency Response/Evacuation Plan

- 1) Define Neighborhood Area Boundaries
 - a) Identify property owners in each Neighborhood Area
- 2) Define Emergency Response Plan
 - a) Collect contact information for people in each Neighborhood Area
 - b) Identify Area Leaders / Block Captains for each Area who will be responsible for contacting people in their Area
 - c) Establish Emergency Response Plan or, minimally, a Phone Tree plan for each Area
 - i) Communicate Area Plan to appropriate property owners
 - ii) Develop back-up plan for communication if telephones are down
 - iii) Prepare people for evacuation in steps per statewide guidelines
 - iv) Define appropriate contacts for communication with professional emergency responders
- 3) Define Evacuation Plan
 - a) Identify access roads in each Neighborhood Area
 - i) Specify type of road, width
 - ii) Identify potential hazards in specific disaster scenarios
 - b) Identify potential alternates for emergency access/escape or firebreaks
 - i) Existing trails, old roads or clearings
 - ii) "Opportunity points" where minimal clearance with bulldozer or backhoe could create quick access
 - c) Identify short-term Safe Areas to harbor people and animals in case evacuation is not possible
 - i) Identify minimal support systems (water, sanitation, ???) for Safe Areas for a 2-day minimum
 - d) Define Evacuation Plan for each Neighborhood area
 - i) Contacts with emergency agencies to communicate information and to establish evacuation guidelines
 - ii) Notification to individual Areas
 - iii) Temporary Rendezvous Location outside of threatened area
 - iv) System to assure everyone is "checked out"
 - v) Logistics to evacuate people and animals
 - vi) Logistics to notify "all clear" and to facilitate re-entry into homes
 - vii) Consider an Evacuation Drill, at least for one or two Areas in the TTFC: experiences to be conveyed to everyone to minimize problem areas in case of a real disaster
 - viii) Communicate outline of Evacuation Plan to all residents so everyone knows what to expect

Emergency Access

Encourage property owners to attach a Knox box to any locked gate (a Knox box is a special box that is only accessible to firefighters and emergency personnel. Gate keys and combinations may be securely left in the box to allow access through gates for emergency personnel). See Appendix 2 for more information about Knox box

4.2 Education and Public Relations Plan

Educate property owners about the various things they can do to reduce the risk of wildfires.

To reach the greatest possible number of people, a variety of educational methods will be used. This will include presentations by recognized authorities, written material targeted to the property owners, and resource information that will be readily available.

Presentations

The education committee is attempting to determine the appropriate number of meetings/presentations for the property owners without overloading the property owners or duplicating existing efforts. A lot of information is currently available from various county and state sources. However, there seems to be a need for site-specific information.

The Education committee is suggesting three presentations for 2005. These would consist of the following:

- Winter - Fuel reduction, thinning and pruning, and the related permit process
- Spring - FireWise/Defensible space (Lake Joy with examples in that community)
- Fall – burning permits or related topic

Mailers

To provide homeowners with written material that could also serve as reference, the Education committee suggests the creation of a “Welcome basket” consisting of information gleaned from county, state and federal sources (FireWise and other organizations). This package would be sent to all current homeowners and to new property owners as property ownership changes.

In addition, the education committee suggests that there are two annual mailings. For 2005 those mailings would consist of the following.

- Spring – Emergency Response, Fire Hazard
- Fall - burn permit information; may be annual mailer

Web site

To provide a reference resource, the Education committee suggests the creation of a web site. The web content would echo much of the content that was in the presentations and the mailings, as well as links to other important information.

The current web site is located at <http://www.ToltFireWise.org>.

Public Relations

To try and reach as many people as possible, this committee would like to recommend some additional educational/public relations activities. These may consist of the following.

- Articles in neighborhood association newsletter and local newspapers
- Information booth at local events (Farmer’s Market, parades, etc.)

Additional activities/ideas:

Identify funding for marketing materials.

Create reminder give-aways, items to distribute to property owners with tips, hints and other FireWise-related information.

4.3 Fuel Reduction Identification Priorities and Recommendations Plan

One of the more troubling issues in the area is the amount of fuel for a potential wildfire. The existing forest stands tend to be very dense and there is a lot of downed slash and brush due to the ice storm in 2004. The Fuel Reduction committee has come up with several suggestions on reducing the fuel.

1. Reduce fuels and improve visibility along main access roads

The roads in the area tend to be narrow and twisting with limited visibility. There are numerous sections of roads where the trees are dense enough to form a closed canopy. While this may look picturesque, the situation reduces the road’s ability to perform as a firebreak. To improve this situation, we suggest the following.

- Continue to apply for grants similar to WUI (applied for in 2004).
- Organize community clearing projects; inquire about leasing/purchasing chipper for community use.

- Encourage property owners to clear and thin along roads and drives

2. Expand fuel reduction program along secondary roads, drives, and other access points

In addition to improving access and visibility on the main roads, we want to identify additional sources of funding to expand on brush clearing along all of the roads in the area that need this treatment since the nature of the contiguous forested area dictates that all roads in the TTFC area be included in a fuel reduction program.

3. Increase number of homes and structures with appropriate defensible space

One of the best ways to minimize damage to homes is to reduce the fuel around the house and create a defensible space.

- Refer to education committee for FireWise and other information
- Get sample homes around Lake Joy and other neighborhoods

4. Expand defensible space concept by “feathering” tree and plant density

- Educate homeowners how to expand defensible space.
- Examples of good landscaping practices
- State Farm Insurance video

5. Maintain existing natural and man-made fuel breaks (such as the power line right-of-way)

With a large expanse of interconnected properties, existing fuel breaks may be critical in controlling any future wildfires. These breaks, such as the power line right-of-way, also allow access to the interior of the properties. We want to encourage property owners to maintain these existing fuel breaks. To accomplish this we plan on the following.

- Contact Bonneville Power Authority (power line right-of-way) and obtain their maintenance plans.
- Work with Eastside Fire and Rescue or similar group to apply for grant to purchase chipper. Make chipper available to property owners on certain days.
- Map and maintain the existing hiking and horse trails. Small trails can provide access to fires for firefighting crews. We can then provide this map to fire officials.

6. Encourage good forest management practices to thin and prune trees

- Work in conjunction with the education committee
- Provide harvest/thinning permit information to property owners (see Appendix 4)
- Locate list of consultants to assist property owners (see Appendix 5)
- Encourage property owners along main road to thin appropriately to serve as examples for all property owners

5.0 Conclusion

The area defined by the Tolt Triangle Fire Council is composed of a group of enthusiastic and concerned neighbors representing diverse neighborhoods who collectively form a community. There exist real opportunities to do great work relative to wildfire education and prevention in this community. Organizing, coordinating and drafting the Tolt Triangle Fire Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a unified effort. The Tolt Triangle Fire Council participants are responsible for drafting this plan and look towards our government collaborators for support in our efforts to educate our neighbors, reduce hazardous fuels and conditions on or enroute to our homes (or our neighbors’ homes) and be responsible stewards of our dynamic ecosystem.

Appendix 1 Participating Organizations

The following is some brief information about the various groups and organizations supporting the efforts of the Tolt Triangle Fire Council:

Neighborhoods and Related Associations

Tolt River Highlands, including TRH Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, Div 7

The Tolt River Highlands neighborhood has a main property owners' association that consists of all property owners. This association is responsible for the shared main road and meets annually.

www.toltriverhighlands.org

The side roads in this neighborhood are maintained by separate property owners associations.

Lake Joy

The Lake Joy neighborhood has a voluntary Lake Joy Community Club that is open for membership to all neighbors who access their properties off the Lake Joy Road. The primary focus of this community club is to address issues that impact the neighborhood. The Lake Joy Community Club is the oldest neighborhood organization in the Tolt Triangle Fire Council Community.

www.lakejoycommunity.com

North Lake Joy Estates

The North Lake Joy Estates neighborhood has a homeowners' association whose primary focus is road surface maintenance.

The Reserve at Lake Joy

The Reserve at Lake Joy neighborhood has a homeowners' association whose primary focus is respect of the covenants and restrictions that apply to the property owners in this development.

Non-government Organizations

Carnation/Duvall Citizens Corps Council

In response to the national request for Americans to work together to strengthen our communities, the cities of Carnation and Duvall have established a nationally-registered Citizen Corps Council to assist in the coordination and dissemination of local volunteer emergency response opportunities and information in the Carnation-Duvall area. During President Bush's State of the Union address on January 29, 2002, he requested that all citizens devote time in volunteer service to their own communities by "getting organized to offer citizens opportunities to help make their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for preventing and handling threats of terrorism, crime, and other emergencies and disasters." The Carnation-Duvall area offers a broad range of opportunities for volunteer service. The goals of the Carnation-Duvall Citizen Corps Council are to stimulate interest at the grass roots level, to provide accurate information of available resources, to coordinate interests in order to avoid duplication, and to create funding, when required, for increased program growth.

www.cdcncl.org/

Eastside Fire and Rescue

In the mid-1930's the Washington Legislature enacted what has become known as "Title 52," laws allowing the formation of fire protection districts. First known as Rural Fire Districts, these autonomous municipal corporations were intended to offer some measure of public support for fire protection to unincorporated areas. Organized fire protection outside of cities at that time was almost unknown. What Title 52 did was give the people the opportunity to organize fire protection and to tax themselves for its support. Despite the fact that they bear county-sounding designations, fire districts are not part of county government. They are individual entities, administered by elected commissioners. The county role is largely that of tax collection. On January 1, 1999 the consolidation of several rural fire districts created a new Fire and Emergency Medical Services agency called Eastside Fire & Rescue.

www.eastsidefire-rescue.org/

Government Organizations

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Department of Natural Resources and Parks' mission is to be the steward of the region's environment and strengthen sustainable communities by protecting our water, land and natural habitats, safely disposing of and reusing wastewater and solid waste, and providing natural areas, parks and recreation programs. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/>

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The people of Washington own more than 5 million acres of land - forests, farms, commercial properties and underwater lands - all of which are managed to provide benefits to the people. The Department of Natural Resources' mission is: To provide professional, forward-looking stewardship of our state lands, natural resources and environment; and to provide leadership in creating a sustainable future for the Trusts and all citizens.

The DNR also protects other public resources- fish, wildlife, water, etc. Two of the largest and most important responsibilities in resource protection are fire prevention and suppression and regulating forest practices (or timber harvest). www.dnr.wa.gov/

U.S. Forest Service

US Forest Service land (Alpine Lakes Wilderness, part of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest) borders the Tolt River Watershed and the Snoqualmie Tree Farm and is due east of the Tolt Triangle Fire Council area of concern. The Forest Service is responsible for fire suppression on Forest Service managed lands, and the Forest Service takes an active role in prevention and education relative to forest fires.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington State extends more than 140 miles along the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains from the Canadian border to the northern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park. The Forest covers portions of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. Together, with the other central Puget Sound counties, 62% (3.63 million people) of the State's population lives within a 70-mile drive of the Forest. The large population factor, coupled with easy road access, makes the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest one of the most visited National Forests in the country. www.fs.fed.us/

City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities Tolt Watershed

The City of Seattle manages two watersheds for the purpose of supplying drinking water to the citizens of Seattle. The Tolt Watershed supplies approximately 1/3 of that drinking water and is located northeast of the Tolt Triangle Fire Council area of concern. The Tolt Watershed is managed solely as a water supply source supported by approximately 14,000 acres of second growth forestland

Private Organizations

Hancock Forest Management

Hancock Forest Management is responsible for management of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm. This tree farm is being managed as an industrial forest with sustainable revenue and fiber production being a primary focus. The tree farm is approximately 103,000 acres and is directly east of the Tolt Triangle Fire Council area of concern.

Appendix 2

Knox Boxes

If there is a fire or other emergency, it is critical that the Fire Department have rapid access to your property. If you have a locked gate to your property, this can delay the Fire Department's response. One way you can make it easy for emergency personnel to access your property (without damaging anything) is to install a Knox box on the gate.

Knox boxes are a secure system that allows Fire and Emergency personnel access to your locked gates. These boxes can only be opened by Fire and Emergency Medical personnel (Police do not have access). In fact, some of the boxes are set up in such a manner that once installed you do not even have access to the box.

The box itself can contain keys to locks, access codes, or even override switches to gates or other locked areas on your property.

The Knox box lock box system utilizes a single master key, with all lock boxes within Eastside Fire and Rescue's jurisdiction keyed to the same master key. The master key is secured with only authorized Fire Department personnel having access to the master key.

Having a Knox box on your locked gate will speed Eastside Fire and Rescue's response time and may help save your property in case of an emergency.

For more details or to purchase and install a Knox box, contact:

Eastside Fire and Rescue
175 NW Newport Way
Issaquah, WA

425-313-3200

Appendix 3

Tolt River Watershed

The South Fork Tolt is Seattle's "other" watershed. Nestled in the foothills of the Cascades east of Carnation, WA it supplies about 30% of the drinking water for 1.3 million people in and around Seattle. It first came on-line in 1964. In 1997, the City of Seattle successfully exchanged lands within the South Fork Tolt watershed with Weyerhaeuser. This exchange gives Seattle 70% ownership of the land that supplies the water.

The landscape of the Tolt River Watershed is predominantly second-growth forests occurring on fairly steep hillsides. The Dam is an earthen dam.

The South Fork Tolt River Watershed:

- Is 12,500 acres in size.
- Can provide up to 100 million gallons of drinking water a day!
- Began operation in 1964.
- Can store up to 18.3 billion gallons of water.
- Ranges from 760 feet in elevation at the regulating basin, to 5,535 feet at McLain Peak.
- Receives between 90 and 160 inches of precipitation a year!

For more details, refer the Tolt River Watershed web site:

http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/About_SPU/Water_System/Water_Sources_&Treatment/Tolt_River_Watershed/index.asp

Appendix 4

Permit Issues for Thinning

This appendix contains information about permits that are required to commercially thin forests in King County. It is necessary to verify this information with DDES when you apply for your forest practice permits.

Notes/definitions

Forest Management plans make the permit process easier, but management plans are not required in all instances. A county-approved plan will ease the permit process and help you stay focused on your particular land stewardship goals.

Any time you do a commercial harvest in the State of Washington, a development moratorium is placed on that land for six years. This is to make sure the property is maintained as a growing forest and to prevent the harvest permit from being used as a backdoor to clearing land for development. This does not mean that all of your land will be affected by the moratorium. If you indicate in your Forest Management plan the areas that will be maintained as forest (and only thin in those areas) and indicate in your management plan the areas that you plan to develop in the future, you may not be affected by a development moratorium.

A Forest Practices permit assumes that the property will continue to be managed as forestland. For example, if the property is clear-cut harvested, the property will then need to be replanted with trees. The number of trees per acre planted and surviving must be maintained at a level consistent with a managed forest. If there is to be a change in the use of the property (from forest to home site or cleared for pasture, etc.), then you may want to apply for a conversion option harvest permit through King County, or a Class IV-G nonconversion permit through DNR.

Permits discussed here are for forest practices only – thinning, harvest, etc. This information is not related to building or site development permits.

There are two main types of thinning:

Precommercial Thin

- Typically done in younger stands of trees to promote growth
- No organic material leaves property.
- Vigorous, fully stocked stand remains
- No written permit required; however, pre-commercial thinning is considered a Class 1 forest practice and all forest practice rules apply.

Commercial Thin

- Logs or pulp material leaves property
- May or may not make a profit
- Need state permit, or in some cases a county permit

If a timber harvest is conducted under a Class II, III, IV-S, or IV-G nonconversion permit, or with no permit a development moratorium may be placed on the property. This moratorium prevents the landowner from developing the property for residential or anything other than forest use. The moratorium encumbers the property title.

Development may be approved for the unharvested portion of property if the harvested portion of the property was conducted consistent with a King County-approved forest management plan excluding the development area, and the harvest was conducted as a IV-G nonconversion or class II, III, or IV-S forest practice.

What this all means is if you have an approved Forest Management plan, you can thin the areas you have identified as forestland on your property and still get permits to build a house, clear, and so on in the portions you have identified for development.

There are two different basic permits for which you can apply to thin your forest.

State Forest Practice permit – Relatively straightforward process especially if Forest Management plan exists for the property. A development moratorium may be placed on the affected property. However, if you have a forest management plan, you can still develop on the part of the property you are not keeping in forest.

Conversion Harvest Option permit – More flexible than a regular forest practices permit as it allows you to change the use of the property in the future. However, it is much more expensive than the normal permit and may be difficult to obtain. A lot more information is required when applying. There is no timeline as to when a permit may be granted and no guarantee that a permit will be issued.

The following table may be helpful in determining which permit you should use when you thin your forest.

Table 3: Permits for Commercial Thin/Harvest

Current Property Status	Future Plans	Permit Options	Development moratorium?	Notes
Occupied	None	State harvest permit	Yes, 6 years	Home and structures all built, no expansion planned for next 6 years. If no Forest management plan, entire property affected by development moratorium. If Forest Management Plan exists, only Forest area affected by moratorium.
	Expansion	Conversion Option Harvest Permit	No	Expensive, may be difficult to obtain (no timeline, no guarantee), most flexible as allows different uses in future.
		Create Forest Management plan, obtain State permit for area in forest plan, county permits for other area.	Yes, for area in Forest Management plan. No moratorium for area outside of plan.	Allows you to perform forest practices in existing forest, yet still have part of the property available for new uses.

Not occupied	Build home	Conversion Option Harvest Permit	No	Expensive, may be difficult to obtain (no timeline, no guarantee) most flexible as allows different uses in future.
		Create Forest Management plan, obtain State permit for area in forest plan, county permits for other area.	Yes, for area in Forest Management plan. No moratorium for area outside of plan.	Allows you to perform forest practices in existing forest, yet still have part of the property available for new uses.
	Resell property	Conversion Option Harvest Permit	No	Expensive, may be difficult to obtain (no timeline, no guarantee) most flexible as allows different uses in future.
		Create Forest Management plan, obtain State permit for area in forest plan, county permits for other area.	Yes, for area in Forest Management plan. No moratorium for area outside of plan.	Allows you to perform forest practices in existing forest, yet still have part of the property available for new uses.
	Some development, then resell	Conversion Option Harvest Permit	No	Expensive, may be difficult to obtain (no timeline, no guarantee) most flexible as allows different uses in future.
		Create Forest Management plan, obtain State permit for area in forest plan, county permits for other area.	Yes, for area in Forest Management plan. No for area outside of plan.	Allows you to perform forest practices in existing forest, yet still have part of the property available for new uses.
	Forest products, no change in current use	State harvest permit	Yes, 6 years	Entire property affected by development moratorium. Easiest, least expensive to obtain.

Appendix 5

Precommercial Thinning and Hand Slashing Contractors

C&V Reforestation Inc
PO Box 1482
Chehalis WA 98532
PH # 360-740-4493

EVS Forestry Inc
PO Box 197
Toutle WA 98649
PH # 360-274-7637

Jose's Reforestation
634 South Market Blvd
Chehalis WA 98532
PH # 360-748-4691

Monty's Tree Service
Montgomery R. Konold
15 G Street S.E.
Auburn, Washington 98002
(253) 351-9975

Ramirez Reforestation Inc
PO Box 1412
Chehalis WA 98532
PH # 360-269-1769

Timberline Silvics Inc
PO Box 1900
Snoqualmie WA 98065
PH # 206-799-6133

Appendix 6 FireWise Community Assessment

Collected from a sample of homes in the neighborhoods in the Tolt Triangle Fire Council area of concern. Data collected fall 2004 by Charley Burns, FireWise Coordinator, Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Assessment Results

Table 4: Assessment Results

Community	Score	Notes
Lake Joy	95	Moss Lake County Park, fuel break, access road only escape route
North Lake Joy Estates	88	Access to Tolt Pipeline Road Steep climb up Stillwater Hill road (paved)
Tolt River Highlands	76	Ice damage, lots of vegetation, most home sites have single access road
The Reserve at Lake Joy	64	

- <39 Low Hazard
- 40 – 69 Moderate Hazard
- 70 – 112 High Hazard
- >113 Extreme Hazard

Most of the communities in TTFC are in a High Hazard area. The community with the densest population, Lake Joy, received the highest score. The main problems were abundance of fuels and limited access. Several areas could use more defensible space around homes and other structures.