Using funding received during the 2016 Legislative Session, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) launched a grant program for conservation districts to implement local Firewise program activities.

**TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING:** $1 MILLION

**PROGRAM BENEFITS:**
- All work completed in high-priority and/or high-risk areas.
- Allocated 100 percent of funds (no overhead).
- Partnered with Department of Natural Resources to leverage funds and get more work done.
- Took advantage of existing funding mechanism between SCC and conservation districts to quickly get dollars out the door.
- Utilized conservation districts’ capacity to conduct local education and outreach events.

**ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**
- Cost-share to help landowners reduce fuels (e.g. tree thinning, pruning, and chipping).
- Installing signs to mark evacuation routes and help emergency responders find homes.
- Conducting homeowner / landowner fire risk assessments.
- Helping landowners implement recommendations from fire risk assessments.
- Outreach and education to new and existing “Firewise Communities.”

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**
- 39,303 landowners provided with Firewise information (e.g. through workshops, mailings)
- 173 Firewise home assessments completed
- 238 acres treated for fuels reduction (e.g. tree thinning, pruning, and chipping)
- 33 existing Firewise Communities assisted
- 10 communities assisted to achieve “Firewise Community” status
- 280 homes provided with signage to direct emergency responders

Firewise practices help reduce home ignition risk (photo courtesy of firewise.org)
FIREWISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Grant programmatic guidelines and all work proposals submitted to the SCC Firewise Grant Program were reviewed and subject to approval by an advisory committee.

Committee members:
- Dean Longrie, SCC Commission Member (Western Rep.)
- Todd Welker, SCC Commission Member (DNR)
- Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan, DNR Firewise Coordinator
- SCC Staff
- Skagit Conservation District
- Okanogan Conservation District
- Cascadia Conservation District
- Kittitas County Conservation District

FIREWISE CONTACTS

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In 2016, Washington led the nation with 32 new Firewise Communities.

“We value our independence in the Northwest, but in truth, the foresight and decision to acknowledge our interdependence when it comes to wildfire risk is vital to our future safety. I especially appreciate the Firewise Community program because it is built on what I consider to be the greatest strengths of our valley - community, collaboration, and cooperation.”

Debbie Newell, landowner in Plain, Washington who is working with Cascadia Conservation District to make her community Firewise.

Spokane Conservation Districts advertisement for free Firewise services

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