Kittitas County Commissioners

**Agenda Staff Report**

**Agenda Date:** November 18, 2013

**Action requested:**

Request to Set a Public Hearing for December 3, 2013 to consider the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code.

**Background:**

The Kittitas County Fire Marshal is requesting that the county take a more comprehensive and strategic approach to fire control and protection in the county through the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC). The WUIC is designed to bridge the gap between enforcement of the International Building Code and International Fire Code by mitigating the hazard of wildfires through model code regulations which enhance public health and safety. It establishes minimum regulations for land use and the built environment in designated wildland-urban interface areas using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. Currently, the WUI Code is found in KCC Title 14, under the building codes. Since 2006 it has been applied in all areas outside of a fire district for building construction requirements only. A new map has been developed which shows all of Kittitas County as a Wildland Urban Interface with some areas pre-designated as IR3 or IR1, these areas may require onsite water storage as well as hydrants. The Fire Marshal is requesting revisions to the following:

1. The addition of section 14.04.005 to Title 14 (Building and Construction) of the Kittitas County Code.
2. Modification of section 16.04.010 of Title 16 (Subdivisions) of the Kittitas County Code.
3. The addition of Title 20 to the Kittitas County Code.
4. Adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Areas map and associated GIS data set(s) into Title 20 of the Kittitas County Code.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 27th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The Kittitas County Fire Marshal presented a PowerPoint presentation on the International Wildland Urban Interface Code. Five members from the public were present that evening and all five members provided public testimony. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the WUIC as presented to the Board of County Commissioners with a vote of 4-0.

**Interaction:**

Board of County Commissioners and Community Development Staff

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners hold a public hearing on November 18, 2013 to consider the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code.

**Handling:** none

**Lead Staff:** Jeff Watson