



## KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Kittitas County Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Jeff Watson, Staff Planner  
**DATE:** December 3, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Wildland Urban Interface Code

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Proposal:

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.

On August 27, 2013 the proposed amendments were presented to the Planning Commission for recommendation to the BOCC; in a 4-0 vote the Commission recommended approval as written.

#### Recommendation

Community Development Services recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the amendments as proposed.

#### Attachments

1. Draft Title 14 of the Kittitas County Code
2. Draft Title 16 of the Kittitas County Code

3. Draft Title 20 of the Kittitas County Code
4. Draft Wildland Urban Interface Areas map.
5. 2012 International Wildland Urban Interface Code