**RESOLUTION**

|  |
| --- |
| **SHORT TITLE:** **2021-09 Stable Funding for CD Wildfire Risk Assessments** |

|  |
| --- |
| **SPONSOR CD: Okanogan** |

|  |
| --- |
| **AREA:** 🞏NW 🞏SW ⌧NC 🞏SC 🞏NE 🞏SE |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION TYPE:**⌧ **Policy**🞏 **Position Statement**🞏 **Recognition**🞏 **Study** |

|  |
| --- |
| **RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):⌧ **WACD****⌧ WSCC****⌧ OTHER STATE AGENCY \_WADNR, Legislature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****🞏 NRCS****🞏 NACD****🞏 NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

|  |
| --- |
| **BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:**Many of Washington State’s 45 conservation districts have been developing wildfire preparedness and hazard mitigation programs for many years. These programs, while very successful, have struggled in most cases to find consistent funding. While districts are accustomed to being grant funded, this is a program area that is particularly difficult to find grant funds to conduct home ignition zone assessments, forest health assessments, forest fuels assessments, fuels reduction activities, home hardening, community wildfire planning, and related activities.Conservation Districts have requested funding appropriations through the Conservation Commission to the Washington Legislature numerous times in recent years and were only minimally successful for one biennium. Most Districts have a very good partnership with Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) staff at the local level. Those partnerships have often evolved over the years, adapting to the skill sets of staff in both entities, available funding, and program directions. What hasn’t changed is that DNR has had an almost vice like grip on available funding for these activities but doesn’t prioritize funding local conservation districts to help with these projects until near the end of a biennium and the projects get rushed then stop abruptly with the end of the funding cycle. |

|  |
| --- |
| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**WACD make it a policy priority to communicate the need for fire preparedness funding should go directly to conservation districts via the Conservation Commission. WACD shall work with the Conservation Commission, Washington State Governor’s Office, Washington State Legislature, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and others as appropriate, to get dedicated funding and ensure the funding appropriation remains in each budget cycle thereafter. |

|  |
| --- |
| **TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION** (check all boxes that apply):🞏 Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.🞏 Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.⌧ New policy. |

|  |
| --- |
| **IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**🞏 **NO**⌧ **YES** (briefly explain): This will take staff time and resources to communicate this priority to the aforementioned entities.  |