**RESOLUTION**

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| **SHORT TITLE: Communication about Fire Breaks in CRP** |

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| **SPONSOR CD: Walla Walla County Conservation District** |

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| **AREA:** 🞏NW 🞏SW 🞏NC 🞏SC 🞏NE ⌧SE |

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

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| **RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):  ⌧⌧ **WACD**  ⌧ **WSCC**  ⌧ **OTHER STATE AGENCY \_\_\_\_DNR, WSDA, WA Military Dept.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  ⌧ **NRCS**  ⌧ **NACD**  ⌧**NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_USDA FSA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| **BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Since 1983, the National Interagency Fire Center has documented an average of approximately 70,000 wildfires a year and the extent of area burned has increased each year since the 1980’s. Those wildfires have burned through forests, agricultural lands, neighborhoods and whole towns, protected lands, public and private lands. Through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan processes, local fire departments have asked for continuous fuel breaks in and adjacent to CRP grasslands and forested areas.  It is NOT common knowledge that fire breaks can be established in high-risk areas within the life of a USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) though the (see 2-CRP (Rev. 6) WA Amend.1). If producers with CRP contracts worked with their local fire districts for best placed fire breaks, then firefighters could get the upper hand on fires, therefore reducing the amount of acreage burned and damage caused. These fire breaks don’t need to be bare ground. The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) allows for green strips to be installed. These are wider than bare soil buffers that are planted with species that are drought tolerant, stay green longer through the summer (the common high wildfire occurring months through much of the country), are easily managed, and provide an increase in native habitat. Both buffers require maintenance through life of the contract but could aid in slowing and/or stopping a fire from advancing. |

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| **PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**  WACD and NACD will work together with FSA & NRCS to educate landowners/producers enrolled in CRP of the option for establishing fire breaks (both bare ground and green strips) in high-risk areas within CRP stands.  CRP contract holders will work with local fire district to install well placed fire breaks within their CRP acreage to help the spread of wildfires.  Landowners/producers will maintain fire breaks through the life of the contract. |

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| **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. |

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| **ARE WACD RESOURCES (FUNDING, STAFF CAPACITY, ETC.) REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**  🞏 **NO**  🞏 **YES** (briefly explain): |