

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1103 N. Fancher • Spokane Valley, WA 99212 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane>

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Contact: Richard Parrish (509) 536-1200  
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## San Juan County Plans to Assess Wildfire Risk

Working in conjunction with San Juan County, local groups and various public agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has launched the process of developing a county-level wildland fire risk assessment that can be integrated into a future Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The BLM is seeking representatives of interested organizations to participate on a steering committee for this project. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Richard Parrish at (509) 536-1226.

The purpose of the risk assessment is to help the BLM and other entities to more effectively prioritize areas for hazardous fuels treatment. It will also identify the highest priority uses for available financial and human resources as related to wildland fire management.

The Wildland Fire Risk Assessment will be developed openly and collaboratively with a broad spectrum of entities such as city, county, private stakeholders, homeowners associations and individual community leaders as available. It will also include consultation with San Juan County, local Fire Districts, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, private landowners and other interested parties.

The BLM has contracted with Northwest Management, Inc to facilitate meetings, conduct field inspections and interviews, develop vulnerability assessments, and collaborate with the steering committee to delineate mitigation projects.

The steering committee will be conducting public meetings in the spring of 2012 to discuss preliminary findings and to seek public involvement in the planning process. A notice of the dates and locations of these meetings will be posted in local news outlets. For more information on the San Juan County Wildland Fire Risk Assessment, contact Richard Parrish, Project Lead, at (509) 536-1226.

-BLM-

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Spokane District Office  
BLM

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