

ISSUE NO. 2

WINTER 2024

# LWFR UPDATE

A NEWSLETTER OF LAKE WENATCHEE FIRE & RESCUE

## INSURANCE AND WILDFIRE

Thank you to everyone who came to the insurance event last week. We learned a lot from our discussion with you and from David Forte's presentation. Though home insurance in our area will continue to be a complicated issue, we hope you see the value in taking steps as individuals and as a community to protect our homes. Studies from IBHS (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety) show the importance of on the ground mitigation work around the perimeter of any structure. Regular maintenance of the space around your home can increase the likelihood of your home surviving when a wildfire comes through.



Chiwawa Pines Fire Dept. 1974

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The year was 1974. Local residents in Chiwawa Pines and separately those in the Ponderosa Community realized they needed organized fire protection. They each in turn voted and established funding for a garage and found used fire trucks to start their departments. Volunteers followed. They bought protective gear, found training, and residents helped take care of other residents.

The fire service here has grown generation by generation since that time. New community stations were built and regional departments merged. Each group in their time looking forward and setting a path to better serve this thriving community. Today we at LWFR have the honor to stand on their shoulders, serving over 100 sq. miles out of 5 stations. Residents are still helping take care of other residents! This year we get the opportunity to look back on 50 years of fire service in this mountain valley and celebrate those visionary leaders that started it all, not just for themselves, but for us as well.

**David Walker Fire Chief**

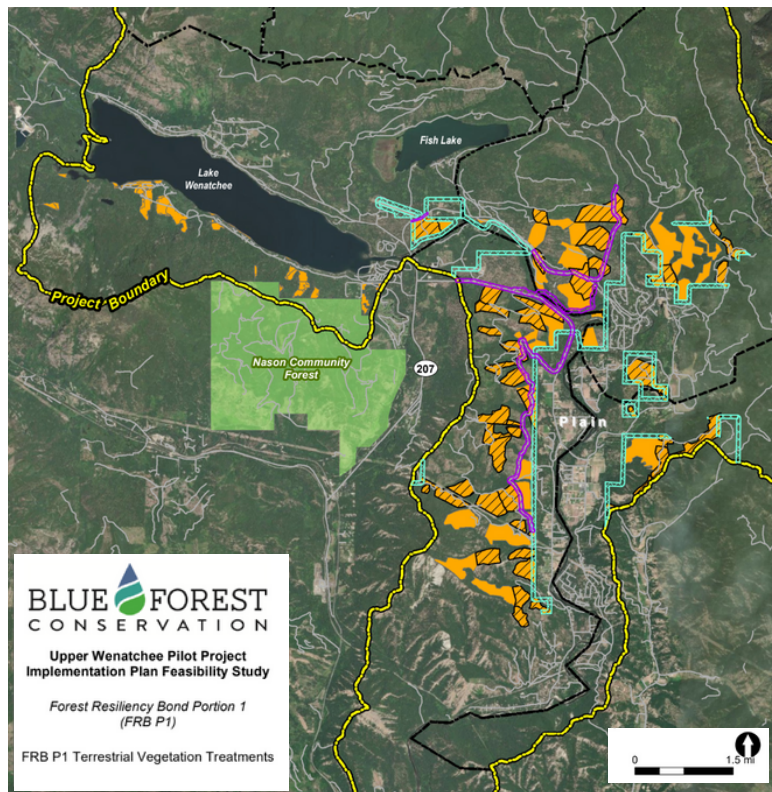
## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



### Chaplain, Eric Warthen

Eric has been an integral part of LWFR for two decades, serving as a Firefighter and as the Department Chaplain. Eric selflessly serves the residents of the district providing services and comfort in times of crisis. Eric also leads PEER to PEER support for other firefighters helping them to remain physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy while processing difficult events. You will also find Eric serving at the Plain Pantry. Thank you to the entire Warthen family for all you do here in Plain, you are appreciated.

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## FOR MORE INFO

If you have any questions about work being done in our area this summer please reach out to our Wildfire Risk Reduction Coordinator Kris King.

[KKing@LWFR.ORG](mailto:KKing@LWFR.ORG) (509) 423-9684

## COUNTY MANAGED WORK IN OUR AREA

2024 will see the implementation of large scale projects on the forests in our district. Below is a statement from Chelan County Department of Natural Resources regarding what is on the docket for this year.

"Our main projects are on the Nason Ridge Community Forest and the Upper Wenatchee FRB area. We will be assessing fuels reduction units on Nason Ridge this summer with DNR and NRCS funding. We are working with USFS to identify the initial fuels reduction treatments in the FRB area around Plain for implementation this summer. We are hoping to complete around 500 acres of priority units north and west of Plain in 2024. We are planning a community outreach meeting with USFS in early March to engage with the public on these units and future work included in the FRB area around Plain and Lake Wenatchee."

## TRAINING CORNER

LWFR is proud to have volunteers that dedicate their time to serve other community members on their hardest days. Approximately 70% of our call response is to aid those dealing with a medical emergency. To serve that need there are 26 certified Emergency Medical Technicians within our department and currently there are an additional nine volunteers going through an EMT school taught by Cascade Medical. That means that by early March 68% of LWFR volunteers will be certified EMTs. This is a huge accomplishment for any community based fire department and something we are immensely proud of! We are forever grateful to our community volunteers.