



Kittitas Chapter, P.O. Box 9, Cle Elum WA 98922

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April 12, 2022 Chapter Report to our Membership

Our Spring, 2022 meeting is schedule for Saturday, April 30, 1 pm.

Our traditional fall pot luck BBQ originally scheduled on the Clark's 30+ forested acres was postponed due to Covid concerns. The Clark's have just recently completed a show case forest health fuels reduction entry that will be of interest to all of us when we can reschedule.

WELCOME NEW 2022 MEMBERS: *Lance Behrens, Lisa n, Rosemary Dunkle, Richard Hermanson, Judd Hesselroth, Rachel Mickey, Amanda Moody, John Wendt*

Our Chapter membership is 77 family forest owners and associated members representing about 200 individuals and approximately 6700 acres in Kittitas County. Our emphasis is providing education opportunities and information related to creating and maintaining healthy forests resilient to fire, insects and disease as well as advocating a forest policy that encourages family forest owners to keep their land in forestry for generations to come.

Locally our chapter is heavily involved in several projects:

- Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. (KFACC)
- The Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee (Community Forest)
- Recently have become involved with the 35,000 acre Upper Swauk Restoration Project (Cle Elum Ranger District, Okanagon-Wenatchee Natl Forest)
- A U of Idaho wildfire research mail survey to WUI owners in Kittitas County.
- City of Cle Elum Fire Advisory Committee

Our Chapter participation requires several meetings a quarter (all zoom) and is being led by Patty O'Hearn in consultation with Phil Hess, Vic Monahan and other members. Your participation is encouraged and will be appreciated! Contact Phil or Patty for a best fit. *Thank-you, PH & PO.*

In Brief:

KFACC was formed in 2017 and is about building fire resilient landscapes – across ownership/management boundaries: fed, state, private land agencies/organizations, fire districts, HOA's, municipalities. Patty O'Hearn attends the monthly zoom meetings representing the SFLO community in Kittitas County. Selected topics of relevance to SFLO's are forwarded to our Chapter membership. Rose Shriner of RC & D is KFACC coordinator.

The Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee (CPPC) - This committees efforts involve the future of 27,000 acres of Central Cascades Forest (CCF) including a 9,400 acre planned Community Forest on Cle Elum Ridge and the Cabin Creek Forest Legacy Project. The CPPC was formed in 2019; organized by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with the purpose of ultimately transferring the 27,000 forested acres acquired from Plum Creek in 2012.

Chapter members Patty O'Hearn of South Cle Elum Ridge, Vic Monahan of Cabin Creek and Phil Hess are volunteers on the CPPC. The Cle Elum Community Forest project recently received a State RCO grant of \$3 million for Phase 1 (1,250 acres). The CPPC is currently working on the ownership and governance of the future Community Forest as well as acquisition funding and financial sustainability.

The website is now live. Check it out! <https://www.checkerboardpartnership.com>. There is also a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CheckerboardPartnership>.