

Wildlife-friendly Property Can Be Fire Ready Too!

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Okanogan County has an abundance of two things: wildfire and wildlife. By taking action to reduce wildfire risk around your home, you may feel that you are reducing the wildlife habitat value of the land. While it's true that removing fuels like trees, fruit-bearing shrubs, and brush piles can reduce the diversity of food and cover that attracts wildlife, it is possible to provide habitat while maintaining defensible space around the home. It simply requires some extra time and thought in the planning stage.

The first step is understanding the different zones of defensible space around your home. Zone 1, includes the home and the first 5 ft. from the exterior walls. This area should have the least amount of fuels, and vegetation should be managed to reduce the chance that fire can move from the landscape to the home, or that airborne embers can find a receptive place to smolder and burn.

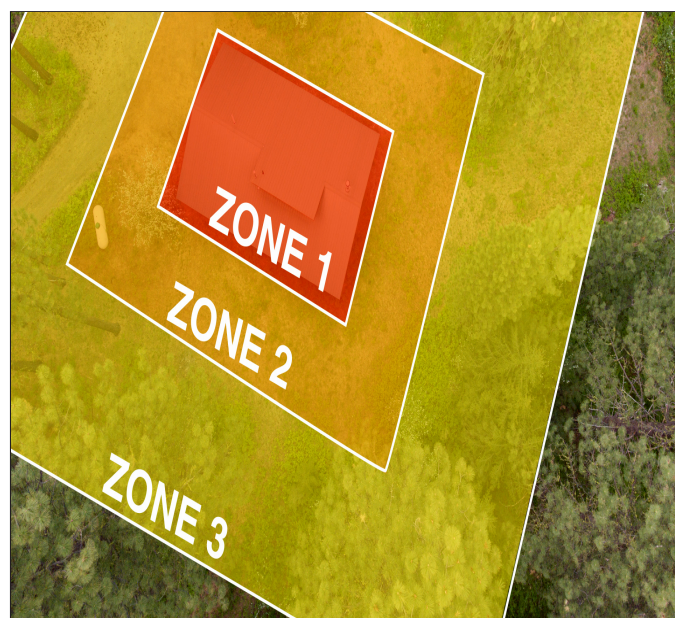
For a personalized evaluation of the home ignition zone around your house, contact Okanogan CD for a **free** wildfire risk assessment.

Zone 2 & 3 (5-30 ft. & 30-100/200 ft.) from the house, depending on slope) provide the most habitat flexibility. The table and diagram on the next page provide examples of wildlife features appropriate for the various zones. Okanogan CD's free wildfire risk assessment can help identify features valuable to wildlife.

Ultimately, landowners need to evaluate their own level of comfort when it comes to balancing wildfire risk reduction with wildlife management goals. To learn more about fire readiness, the **SLLOPPS** method for wildlife habitat, or to schedule a site visit to explore your options, please checkout our wildfire web page at <https://www.okanogancd.org/wildfire> or call Okanogan CD's wildfire program lead at 509-429-3453.



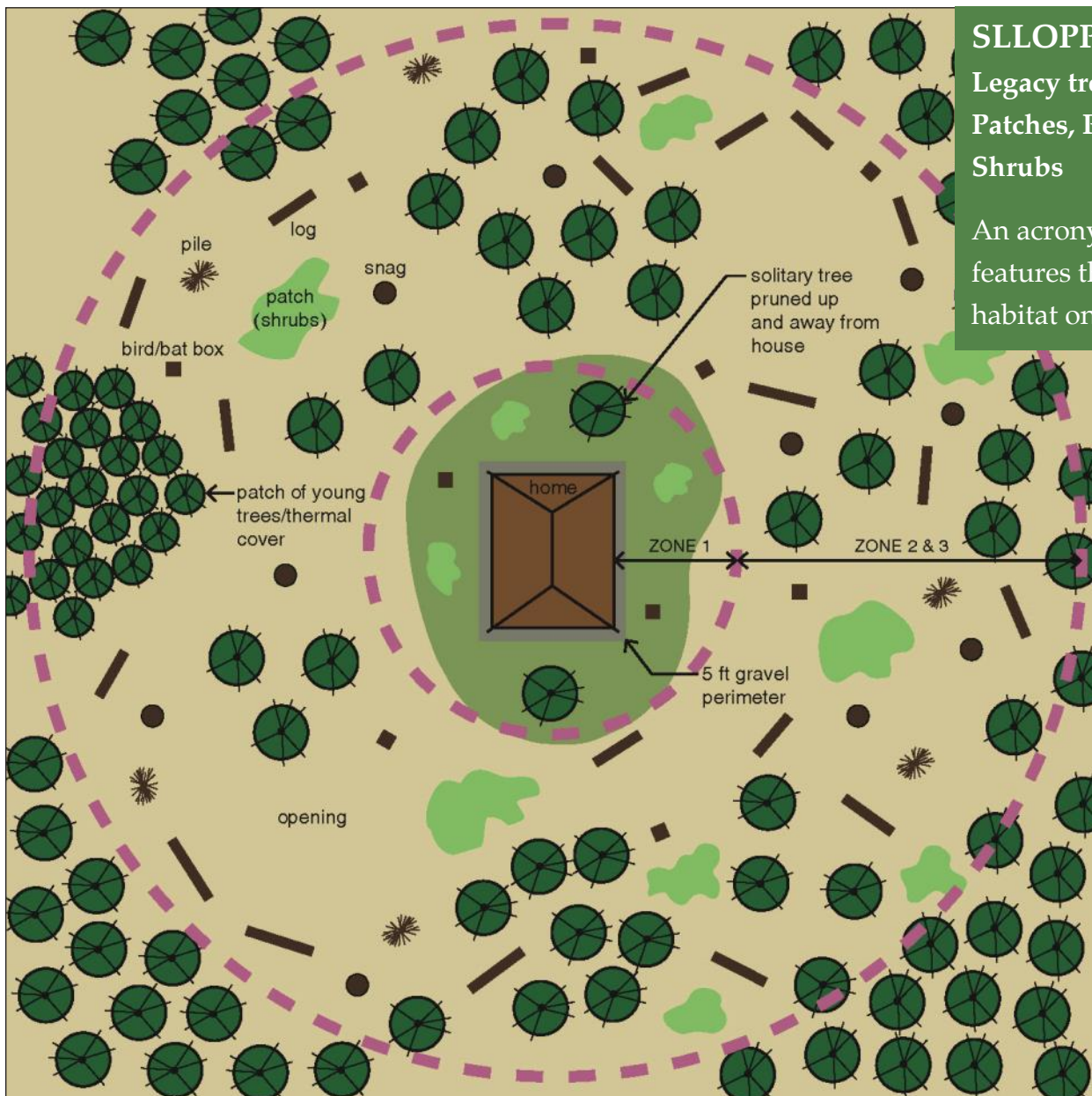
Whooo says you can't balance habitat needs and wildfire preparedness?
Photo credit Patti Cockfield.



Wildlife-friendly and Fire Ready

WILDLIFE FEATURES IN FIREWISE ZONES

ZONE 1 0'-5' FROM THE HOME	Maintain a non-flammable barrier of gravel, sand, or other material around the exterior. Firewood, pine needles, and other easily flammable material shouldn't be stored or allowed to accumulate in this area. Any plants must be kept watered and well maintained throughout fire season. Avoid plants that shed lots of needles or leaves.	In this zone, try installing non-plant ordained wildlife features like bird feeders, bird baths, or toad huts. If you do maintain landscaped plants in this zone, ensure they don't make direct contact with siding or windows, are low to the ground, and are spaced out. Remove non-fire resistant plants.
ZONE 2 & 3 5-30' and 30-100/200' FROM THE HOME	Break up continuous paths of fuel, providing 10-20' breaks between trees, shrubs, and wildlife features. Open areas are beneficial for wildlife and provide fuel breaks between tree patches, shrub patches, habitat piles, and snags.	Provide wildlife habitat through the "SLOPPS" method in this area away from the home. Snags, logs, openings, patches, and piles provide cover, nesting, and feeding areas for local wildlife.



SLOPPS: Snags, Logs, Legacy trees, Openings, Patches, Piles, and Shrubs

An acronym for wildlife features that will enhance habitat on your property!

Reference:
 Strong, N., Bevis, K., and Bracher, G. 2016. *Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest*.
<http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com>