

Northwest Angle Community Wildfire Protection Plan



The Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods County completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2014. Participants in the planning process identified the risk of wildfire and the vulnerability of assets in their community. Finally, participants identified strategies and created a Plan for Action to reduce the risk of fire occurrence and reduce the vulnerability of assets in their community to wildland fire.

Lake of the Woods County

206 8th Ave SE Baudette, MN 56623

218.634.4570

11/25/2014

Thank You

We extend a special thank you to the Minnesota DNR for providing funding and assisting with the development of this plan.

Grant funder of this project is the Minnesota DNR Firewise program with resources provided by the USFS, State, and private funders.

This plan was prepared by:
The Headwaters Regional Development Commission
PO Box 906
Bemidji, MN 56619



Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose

Wildfire mitigation can be defined as those actions taken to reduce the likelihood of loss due to wildfire. Effective wildfire mitigation can be accomplished through a variety of methods including managing wildland fuels, creating strategic fuel breaks, utilizing fire-resistant building materials and creating defensible space landscaping for homes, enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities, upgrading current infrastructure, and developing programs that foster community awareness and neighborhood activism.

Scope

This document shall be known as the Northwest Angle Community Wildfire Protection Plan. It serves the geography of the Northwest Angle of Lake of the Woods County. It specifically addresses wildfire risk and vulnerability in the Angle Inlet and island communities. It does not address wildfire risk and vulnerability on the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

About the Angle

The Northwest Angle is a unique place, only one of two places in the contiguous 48 states located north of the 49th parallel. The mainland of the Northwest Angle is separated from the remainder of Lake of the Woods County by the lake, Lake of the Woods. Transportation to the Northwest Angle is primarily by highway, through Manitoba, Canada. Other modes of transportation include flight and watercraft. By highway the Angle Inlet is located 2 hours and 20 minutes' drive (100 miles) through Warroad and Manitoba from the county seat in Baudette, and another 320 miles the state capital in St. Paul.

The Northwest Angle is home to seasonal and full-time residents on the mainland and islands. The largest of the islands include Mangusons Island, Brush Island, Flag Island, and Oak Island. Islands are developed with homes, but no roads or formal passages through the island cores.

Map 1 in **Appendix I** depicts the location of the Northwest Angle.

Planning Authority and Stakeholder Engagement

Planning Authority

The decision makers for this Community Wildfire Protection Plan include:

- Lake of the Woods County, Board of Commissioners
- Brian McKeever, Northwest Angle Fire Department
- John Faulkner, MN DNR, Area Forest Supervisor

Public and Multi-Jurisdictional Input

Federal Entities

- Bureau of Land Management – Invited to review and comment of the planning document on December 8, 2014.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Invited to review and comment of the planning document on December 8, 2014.

State Entities

- MN Department of Natural Resources was consulted during grant application developed, provided resources prior to the May 24th meeting on the Northwest Angle, participated in the May 24th meeting on the Northwest Angle, and was invited to review and comment on the document on December 8, 2014.

Local Entities

- Lake of the Woods County. The Emergency Manager participated in the grant application developed, provided resources prior to the May 24th meeting on the Northwest Angle, participated in the May 24th meeting on the Northwest Angle, and was invited to review and comment on the document on December 8, 2014. The Board approved the plan on _____.
- The HRDC presented to the Northwest Angle Land Owners Association meeting on May 24th asking for input on engaging residents, presented risk and vulnerability information, and requested input on potential mitigation strategies.
- The HRDC presented to the County Board and others at the June 17th meeting of the Board on the Northwest Angle, presented risk and vulnerability information, and requested input on potential mitigation strategies.
- Residents of the Northwest Angle participated in a meeting on the Northwest Angle on May 24th, and landowners were mailed a survey. They were presented with risk and vulnerability information and were asked to provide input on potential mitigation strategies.