



Modifying Fire Hazard Severity in the WUI



Vegetation Management Plans

Landowners may submit a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) as part of their development permit to lower fire hazard severity on the parcel. Certain vegetation management activities may not be possible in some areas of the island such as critical areas and shoreline due to environmental regulations. Moderate is the lowest hazard level available for properties within the wildland-urban interface. These plans can be submitted alongside a development permit, or as a stand-alone tree permit, and may require additional review time and/or fees. VMP requirements:

Site plan

- Contains all items required to be on a basic site plan. Requirements located in [Administrative Manual](#).
- Show boundary of conforming [defensible space](#) that will be targeted in the VMP based on fire hazard severity of the parcel
- Depicts trees and woody vegetation currently existing in the defensible space (0-150 ft depending on current severity level)
- Shows vegetation areas to be removed or managed through pruning

Project Narrative

- Indicate methods and timetables for controlling, changing, or modifying areas on the property such as:
 - Removal of slash, snags, dead trees and other ground fuels
 - Pruning way from buildings to 10 ft
 - Reducing ladder fuels by raising canopies to 6 ft when possible
 - Thinning of live trees to provide a minimum of 10 ft between canopies
 - Managing vegetation that may grow into electrical lines, ground fuels
- Explain how these proposed fuel-reduction measures will be maintained over time
- Description of tree protection measures for trees to remain

Fire Hazard Severity Checklist

In some cases, the fire hazard severity map may not accurately reflect the parcel due to unique site conditions or pre-existing ignition-resistant materials. If a more calculated hazard level determination is desired by the applicant, the fire hazard severity form (WUIC Table 801.1) may be submitted along with the development permit application. A site visit with Bainbridge Island Fire Department and additional review fees may be required to verify completeness of this checklist.

Resources

Fire Hazard Severity Form

<https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17529/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Checklist>

WUIC Vegetation Management Plans

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IWUIC2021P1/appendix-b-vegetation-management-plan>