



Staff Report

October 5, 2026 Council Regular Meeting

Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment and Community Resilience Plan

Presenter: Chris Witkowski, Parks & Recreation Director

Phone	Email
360.817.7037	cwitkowski@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: Increased temperatures, extended drought conditions, and extreme heat events resulting from climate change have all amplified the conditions that create wildfire risk. This increased risk of wildfires is anticipated to disproportionately impact vulnerable populations and overburdened communities in Camas, who experience higher rates of health conditions exacerbated by smoke exposure and barriers to evacuation and economic recovery. An existing conditions analysis for the draft Comprehensive Plan Climate Change & Resiliency Element, which included a review of Clark County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as feedback from the City's Climate Policy Advisory Team, identified potential wildfire hazard areas in Camas and communities that could be more vulnerable to climate hazards such as wildfires and wildfire smoke. This information provides some initial considerations for evaluating wildfire risk factors and areas of the city that are more vulnerable to wildfires and wildfire smoke as the city explores next steps in climate planning.

Through \$250,000 of funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce's Climate Planning Grant, this project will support the implementation of the City's draft Comprehensive Plan Climate Change & Resiliency Element through a Wildfire Risk Assessment and Community Resilience Plan. The Plan will help build community resilience and support the city in planning for future impacts from wildfires.

SUMMARY: Since wildfire risk and climate resilience cover multiple departments, the City established a multi-disciplinary project team to support the project. The core team members include:

- Cliff Free, Fire Chief
- Alan Peters, Community Development Director
- Scott Collins, Public Works Director
- Chris Witkowski, Parks & Recreation Director

Various subject matter experts will also be utilized at various stages of the project.

To secure the services of the most qualified consulting team to assist the city with the project, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was posted in July 2026. Twenty-three (23) proposals from across the country were received and evaluated. After careful analysis by

the project team, the firm Haley & Aldrich Inc. scored the highest across all rated criteria and were selected for the project. Rated criteria were:

- Experience & Qualifications
- Project Approach & Understanding
- Quality Assurance & Quality Control Procedures
- Adherence to Schedule

The scope of the project includes three primary elements:

1. Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment and Mapping
2. Wildfire Risk Mitigation Strategies
3. Public Outreach and Educational Materials

Details of each include:

Task 1: Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment and Mapping

Assess how climate change is altering wildfire risk locally. This task will consist of a combination of tabletop analysis, in-field observations, and GIS mapping.

- Utilize open-source risk-mapping tools and available data to assess citywide wildfire risk in Camas
- Conduct field observations of five (5) City-owned open space tracts to identify topographical features that can contribute to the spread of wildfires (i.e. slopes, vegetation, etc.).
- Create a citywide risk assessment map utilizing ArcGIS software and publicly available data
- Present material in report format

Task 2: Develop Wildfire Risk Mitigation Strategies

Identify best practices to reduce wildfire risk on public and private parks, open spaces, natural areas, and buildings.

- Research and recommend strategies for wildfire mitigation as they pertain to conditions within the City of Camas
- Identify opportunities for the City of Camas to reduce wildfire risk in parks, open spaces, and natural areas
- Identify strategies to promote fire-adapted communities
- Consult with local agencies, such as Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) and local utility companies, for feedback on mitigation strategies and/or recommendations
- Present material in report format

Deliverables for Tasks 1 & 2 will include:

1. Draft Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment & Risk Mitigation Report (to be reviewed by City project team)
2. ArcGIS Wildfire Risk Map (to be publicly accessible online)
3. Final Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment & Risk Mitigation Report (to be shared with City Council and digitally accessible to the public)

Task 3: Develop Public Outreach and Educational Materials

Develop materials to educate property owners on climate-driven wildfire risk and resiliency.

- Prepare print and electronic materials with best practices, strategies, and code requirements for property owners to prepare for wildfires and increase climate resiliency
- Prepare a course outline and supporting materials, including wildfire and climate resilience resources and agency contact information
- Prepare print and electronic training and education materials for City staff and the community
- *Note: Delivery of educational materials and course content to the public is not part of this project. This will occur at a future date and be conducted by City and/or Regional Fire Authority staff.*

Deliverables for Task 3 will include:

1. Wildfire and Climate Resilience Materials Package
2. Wildfire and Climate Resilience Course Outline and Materials

Per grant requirements, the report and project must be completed by June 30, 2027.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: Wildfire can have a devastating impact to a community, from property loss to ecological damage to financial hardship, in addition to potential loss of life. With changing climate patterns, Camas' topography and vegetation, and continued development, the community is increasingly susceptible to wildfires. This project will identify high risk areas in the city, provide mitigation strategies to reduce that risk, and offer recommendations for protecting both public and private infrastructure.

STRATEGIC PLAN: This project aligns with the strategic priority of a Safe & Accessible Community.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: With a grant deadline of June 30, 2027 and a large area to assess, completing the project within the time constraints is a key challenge. However, the project team is ready to kick off the project shortly after City Council approval and the schedule has been established so all tasks function as one continuous planning process.

BUDGET IMPACT: The scope of work totals \$240,905 and is funded from a \$250,000 Department of Commerce climate planning grant. There is no funding match requirement. Consequently, the project is cost neutral to the City.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend that the Climate-driven Wildfire Risk Assessment and Community Resilience Plan project be awarded to Haley Aldrich Inc.

Project Roll-Up									
HALEY ALDRICH		1- Risk Assessment & Mapping		2- Risk Mitigation Strategies		3- Public Education & Outreach		Project Total	
		Hours	Fees	Hours	Fees	Hours	Fees	Hours	Fees
HA-Christy Duitman	250	4	\$1,000	4	\$1,000	0	\$0	8	\$2,000
HA- Daniele Spirandelli	228.75	100	\$22,875	67	\$15,326	29	\$6,634	196	\$44,835
HA- Laura Hanson	221.92	40	\$8,877	58	\$12,871	77	\$17,088	175	\$38,836
HA- Ryan Cole	179.22	0	\$0	30	\$5,377	20	\$3,584	50	\$8,961
HA- David Rother	159.33	100	\$15,933	63	\$10,038	15	\$2,390	178	\$28,361
HA- Michelle Toner	150.18	200	\$30,036	0	\$0	0	\$0	200	\$30,036
HA- Michael Oakes	139.57	40	\$5,583	0	\$0	0	\$0	40	\$5,583
HA- Hebe Clark	120.54	8	\$964	8	\$964	0	\$0	16	\$1,929
HA- Brionna Timmerman	108.34	5	\$542	5	\$542	5	\$542	15	\$1,625
FW- Cori Mikkalo	200	0	\$0	125	\$25,000	56	\$11,200	181	\$36,200
RCG- Travis Shappell	180	0	\$0	52	\$9,360	83	\$14,940	135	\$24,300
RCG-Margaret Raimann	180	0	\$0	4	\$720	40	\$7,200	44	\$7,920
RCG- Jorge Zuniga	120	0	\$0	44	\$5,280	42	\$5,040	86	\$10,320
Totals		497	\$85,810	460	\$86,478	367	\$68,618	1324	\$240,905

City of Camas, Washington: Climate Driven Wildfire Risk Assessment and Community Resilience Plan Budget, September 2026

Page 1 of 4

Firms Legend

HA = Haley and Aldrich, Inc.

FW= Fair Winds Consulting

RCG = Resilient Communities Group