



## As Climate Change Increases Upper Peninsula Wildfire Risk Communities are Eligible for Mitigation Assistance

**MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN:** The Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy (SWP) was recently awarded two federal grants totaling over \$400,000 to assist Upper Peninsula communities and tribes in mitigating potential wildfire risk due to a changing climate. Specifically, the SWP received a \$288,000 grant through the US Forest Service (USFS) Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Program and a \$124,000 grant through the US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Program.

The SWP and the Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) will utilize the funding to implement a variety of strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires including conducting property assessments to assess fire risk, clearing defensible buffer space around community buildings and public infrastructure and developing fire breaks by removing excess brush, trees and woody debris. The project incorporates wildfire reduction practices of the national Firewise program (learn more at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>). The SWP will also provide community outreach and education materials regarding wildfire mitigation best practices and assistance in developing community wildfire protection plans.

“The SWP has a long history of working with Upper Peninsula communities and tribes to implement a wide range of climate adaptation projects. Now, this new wildfire funding allows us to help communities reduce risk and become even more climate resilient. This is a great example of local partners working with local communities to address a changing climate” said Carl Lindquist Executive Director of the SWP.

The first priority for fire mitigation work will be public buildings, public infrastructure and public recreation sites. Local units of government and tribes are invited to contact the SWP and submit potential fire mitigation sites for consideration. The SWP will collaborate with the Ottawa National Forest (ONF), Hiawatha National Forest (HNF), Northern Institute

of Applied Climate Science, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF) in prioritizing fire mitigation sites that will receive assistance.

Jeff Koch, SWP Senior Field Scientist stressed the importance of local collaboration; "We're asking Upper Peninsula communities and tribes to submit information regarding potential public wildfire mitigation sites as soon as possible to help us prioritize field work and schedule GLCC crews." The SWP is requesting a basic site map, photos and a brief description for each public building site, public infrastructure site or public recreation site. This information can be submitted by clicking the "assistance form" button below or by emailing [jeff@superiorwatersheds.org](mailto:jeff@superiorwatersheds.org).

For more information on this three year program to reduce wildfire risk in the Upper Peninsula please contact the Superior Watershed Partnership at (906) 228-6095, [info@superiorwatersheds.org](mailto:info@superiorwatersheds.org), or visit [www.superiorwatersheds.org](http://www.superiorwatersheds.org)

## ASSISTANCE FORM



The Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy is a 100% local, non-profit organization and a regional leader in Great Lakes protection, climate adaptation and community pollution prevention. The SWP implements a variety of habitat restoration, energy efficiency, sustainable tourism and public education projects with an emphasis on communities in the Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron watersheds. For more information, please visit: [www.superiorwatersheds.org](http://www.superiorwatersheds.org).

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