

Carlton Complex Fire

The 2014 Carlton Complex fire, the largest recorded wildfire in Washington history, burned 256,108 acres, destroyed 353 homes, and caused an estimated \$98 million in damage. The fire caused no direct fatalities or serious injuries. Lightning sparked the fire on July 14, 2014, in four spots near the towns of Carlton, Twisp, and Winthrop in Okanogan County on the Methow River. The four fires spread uncontrollably and on July 17, hot winds turned them into a firestorm that raced 25 miles south. It reached Pateros on the Columbia River, and burned down 111 homes. It burned homes and ranches in the Chiliwist Valley, and threatened the town of Malott on the Okanogan River. On July 18, it merged into one gigantic fire and approached the hills around Brewster, burning 47 homes. On August 21, massive downpours caused devastating mudslides over the bare, ashen landscape. Yet rain helped douse the remaining hot spots and on August 24, 2014, officials declared the Carlton Complex fires 100 percent contained.

When it was over there were:

415 Square Miles, 256,000+ Acres burned
353 Homes were lost, 256 primary homes and over 100 outbuildings.
40 Homes in town of Pateros
52 homes at Alta Lake
47 homes around Brewster
No FEMA individual assistance declaration. Aug 12, 2014
And appeal denied on Sept 23, 2014.

Through funding by Tree Top a staff has been assembled to collect and assess the needs of the local residence, coordinate the task of managing the volunteer help, fund raising and distribution. They include Carlene Anders, executive director Carlton Complex Long Term Recovery Group (CCLTRG), 4 case workers, volunteer coordinator and a building manager. They presently have over 200 cases they are either working on or have been filed.

The recovery task includes building homes for uninsured and under insured individuals and families. Repair homes and property.

There are no State or Federal funds being made available for replacing lost homes so it is up to the faith based and other community and private organizations to help with the funding. The estimate by the case workers is that there are 47 homes that need to be built for those who were under insured or had no insurance.

The people of North Creek Presbyterian Church (NCPC) didn't experience the blazing fury that swept north-central Washington in July. They weren't in the Okanogan County town of Pateros or nearby when hundreds of homes were incinerated. Their fruit trees and livelihoods weren't damaged or destroyed by the largest wildfire in state history.

Now, seven months after the **Carlton Complex Fire**, members of the North Creek Presbyterian Church are helping people who lived through the inferno. Our congregation has committed to build or assist with the building three of the homes. If funding is available others will be built.

Others involved in the house building program include: The Red Cross, The Salvation Army. The Mennonites, the Amish, Christian Brotherhood, and the Methodist. For this portion of the recovery process North Creek Presbyterian Church seems to be the lone represented congregation.

Our plan is to build walls for houses over here, in Western Washington, and truck finished wall section over to the building site, where an NCPC team will have completed the house floor and then tilt up the wall sections. Trusses will be delivered and we will then install roof decking and roofing. We will install doors and windows so that the house will be dry and closed up. One of the other building partners will finish the interior.

There are four house plans available for construction, the largest is an 1100 sq. ft. three bedroom home. For this home it is approximately \$20,000 to dry the house in, floor, wall, roof framing, roofing and siding also included also doors and windows. Addition expenses include: Foundation, utilities, interior finish, appliances, HVAC, electrical and plumbing. The large majority of the building is with volunteers, with some expected paid labor in the areas of electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

As of the first of June we are just completing our first house and are starting our second.

Construction progress can be viewed on the North Creek Presbyterian Church Facebook page. “Carlton complex Fire Rebuild” (link)

If you would like more information or would like to be involved contact:

Kathy Power at “Carlton Complex Long Term Recovery Group” @ (509) 429-3133

Carltoncomplexrecovery.com

or

North Creek Presbyterian Church @ (425) 743 2386

If you would like to help financially, donations can be sent to:

North Creek Presbyterian Church

621 164th St. SE

Mill Creek, Wa. 98012

Please write “Carlton Complex Fire Rebuild “on the check.