August 19, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Ken Murphy
FEMA Region Ten
Bothell, WA 98102

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section Emergency citation (501) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § Emergency citation (206.35) I request that you declare an emergency for Washington State as a result of the 2015 Washington Fires to include Asotin County, Chelan County, Douglas County, Ferry County, Klickitat County, Okanogan County, Pend Oreille County, Spokane County, Stevens County, Skamania County, and Yakima County. Combined these counties are responding to over 40 fires with the likely potential for more fire starts in the near future. The state is requesting specialized resources to assist with potential life-saving and property protection activities to lessen the threat of further wildfire impacts.

To date there have been 14 confirmed incident/event related injuries and one death associated with these 2015 Washington Fires.

The American Red Cross is operating seven shelters in Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, and Stevens Counties and continues high daily activity for feeding and supplies at these locations. Additional locally operated shelters are open and in use.

On June 26, 2015, I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Washington for all 39 counties due to extraordinary heat and drought conditions across the state. These conditions have continue to worsen and exacerbated the threats posed by high fire danger weather conditions.

On August 13, 2015 a low pressure settled over central and eastern Washington that generated several hundred lightning strikes in a 6 hour period setting off numerous fires. This weather system remained in effect thru Saturday August 15, 2015. Gusty winds
continue to effect these regions. Another similar system is moving into the region in the
next 2 days with extreme high fire danger weather predicted.

There have been five Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations in the span of 36
hours with two additional approved Washington State Fire Mobilizations for Black
Canyon/McFarland Creek Fires in Okanogan County and Renner Lake Fire in Stevens
and Ferry Counties. Currently 11 counties and 4 tribes are affected or threatened by fires
with 39 confirmed residences and 60 other structures destroyed with over 235,000 acres
burned. Over 3600 homes remain threatened, and these numbers are increasing each day
as the largest fires remain uncontained. The National Weather Service has predicted an
incoming weather pattern which will bring increased winds and low humidity, further
increasing dangerous fire conditions. We expect this to dramatically increase the number
of threatened homes and communities.

Additionally, 200 Title 10 federal forces are being deployed to the fires on Friday,
August 21. Given the continuing high fire threat, additional requests for assistance may
be made as further information is obtained from the local jurisdictions on the fire lines.

Washington State had a major disaster declaration on August 11, 2014 for the Washington
Wildfires (DR-4188) in Okanogan County from the Carlton Complex Fire. The impacts of this
current event are likely to exacerbate the ongoing housing and economic recovery efforts from
the declared disaster last year.

We look forward to a favorable response to this request.

Very truly yours,

Jen.stle
Governor

Enclosures (3)

SCO Designation Letter
State and Local Response for 2015 Fires
FEMA Form 010-0-13 Presidential Declaration Request