



Our mission is to prevent deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage resulting from wildfires in Deschutes County.

**May 21, 2019 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
APPROVED Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Vacant	Fire Rep 1	
x	Bob Madden for Doug Green	Fire Rep 2	Bend Fire Dept.
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 3	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
X	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	LaPine Fire Dept.
	Gary Githens	Insurance Industry	Brown & Brown
	Vacant	Business Community	
	Erica Pelley	Marketing	High Desert Museum
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Zechariah Heck	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
x	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
x	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
x	Craig Letz, Vice-Chair	HOA Rep	Tree Farm
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
x	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
x	Kevin Stock for Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Nicole Strong	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
x	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
x	Tony DeBone	Commissioner	Deschutes County
X	Jodie Barram	Contract Director	Project Wildfire/FireFree

Public Present:

Peter Brewer, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Greg Bryant, Deschutes River Woods
Pete Caligiuri, The Nature Conservancy
Alison Green, Central Ore. Cohesive Strategy
Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Dave Howe, City of Bend Fire Department
Heather Kaisner, Deschutes Co. Public Health

Jim Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA
Marie Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA
Kevin Stock, USFS, Newberry Division
Boyd Turner, Homeowners at Eagle Crest
Glenn Voelz, UW & DESOSAR
Helen Webre, Woodside Ranch
Doug White, Buck Canyon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Craig Letz, Vice Chair. Introductions were made by those in attendance (name/affiliation).

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

The agenda was briefly reviewed. Meeting minutes from April 16, 2019 were approved by consensus.

Jodie Barram updated on activities, presentations, FAC Network activities, prescribed fire tour, and FireFree. She is behind on the Sisters CWPP. She is looking to steering committee member recruitment in June through August to fill vacancies.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Bob Madden discussed Bend's Community Response Plan (CRP), and said that because they are the first in the state and want to be a good example. They are currently re-editing it. The lion's share will be with the health department. Then they will resubmit it with revisions that provide more detail. The City Council and Board Of County Commissioners (BOCC) are supportive. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is talking about shelters and significant response. Prescribed fire has much less smoke and DEQ was treating it as wildfire smoke. The Mayor didn't want that to hamstring the proposal. DEQ got the message clearly. He's optimistic. He thinks they'll get to yes. Ashland is waiting for Bend. It's new territory for everyone.

Peter Brewer shared that Ashland's spring burns have gone well so far, same here.

Tony DeBone felt this group can be an advocate. The first approved draft was ready to go when the Smoke Management Plan was passed. The BOCC was well notified along with a lot of other partners that prescribed fire smoke is for much less duration (days) than wildfire smoke for months. He thinks a shelter plan could be useful for summertime.

Heather Kaisner is pushing back on Oregon Health to not call them shelters, but clean air spaces. They don't want to put out more emphasis and desensitize the public. Access and functional needs are vulnerable groups they are trying to reach. She shared a handout about smoke (*attached*) and where its coming from. Oregon Health Authority gave Deschutes Health Services (DHS) \$5000 for HEPA filters to put in key places around the county particularly for the homeless population. DHS hasn't received as many calls this year at all.

Bob Madden added that Morgan Feld was at the last meeting. The state wanted to see examples of what we are doing. He believes they got educated.

Tony DeBone thought we should celebrate the successes of prescribed fire when we have the smoke in the spring and fall.

Heather Kaisner relayed that people that call them are more curious than reporting concerns.

Dean Richardson highlighted that centraloregonfire.org is a great way to find out what is going on. He mentioned it didn't have information on it in real time during Lazy River fire. **Alison Green** said the website transitions usually in June, it was a fast fire and they couldn't get information up fast enough.

Craig Letz asked **Kevin Stock** to discuss prescribed fire and how many acres they've done in the past and now. Kevin talked about needing to be next to town as a priority but that will cause intrusion. Location is more important than quantity of acres. They have been trying to do maintenance units and have less impacts right in town. They are looking to double their opportunity in areas near to town. The best year has been 8-9,000 acres of the 1.1 million on Deschutes National Forest. **Peter Brewer** asked what would you like to do? Kevin answered he'd like to treat 15,000 acres, but would need bigger date windows. Even 10,000 to 12,000 would be better.

Peter was glad to hear Bob explain about the DEQ hang-ups and that they are trying to overcome them. He wasn't aware of them before. He will keep bringing it up in Portland too. He commented on the second entry burn; was so nice to see. His office watched and saw it was successful without significant smoke impacts.

Alison shared that being the first ones out of the gate we had funding in place to put communications and outreach in place. As a model, we need to be aware that others may not have the resources to follow our example with an outside coordinator. Utilizing the collaborative is important. She suggested the group be thinking about how to help other communities if they don't have the financial resources. She asked how much the text alerts cost.

Peter shared some areas have a one-page application which is well-meaning but limited. Heather agreed that they are seeing the same on the health department side.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Tony DeBone suggested sharing examples of community meetings, successes, and hearing from neighborhood associations.

Helen Webre met a couple who just moved from Paradise and this couple may be able to come speak to the group and could impress community with what they know.

Jodie Barram offered that she could present on what is being discussed in the FAC Learning Network about unhouse populations and transient/tourist populations.

Dean Richardson would like to explore people that have properties but aren't here year-round or live out of state, a lot of neighborhoods without homeowners' associations find it difficult to get word out.

ROUNDTABLE

Zechariah Heck updated the group that the Caldera Springs expansion has been settled. The Community Development Department along with Ed Keith has been working on the wildfire hazard map

data and will present June 11th to the BOCC then June 17th the BOCC will discuss what to do with the information and if they should adopt R327 building codes.

Helen Webre talked about their April 18th annual homeowners meeting. They did a survey and found that folks wanted fire information newsletters and information posted on NextDoor, and felt brochures were helpful.

Heather Kaisner reported that DHS is purchasing HEPA filters to distribute in early June. They will be using the term "clean air spaces" as they raise awareness. Right now they are dealing with pertussis, mosquitos, and ticks messaging.

Paula Simone did presentations to two groups on campus and thought that could have bumped up text alerts. She did Alex Robertson's presentation on burns. She also left information for the residence hall. Students are out assessing communities and doing final projects. Alison and Paula are securing Sept. 26 & 27 for a class.

Dave Howe helped out with Fire Ready Bend at OSU-Cascades. It worked out well. He thinks just having conversations with people helps. With the recent rain, we need to remind people to not be complacent. Fuels will dry.

Greg Bryant said that he has been looking around neighborhood and seeing a lot of work being done to clear pine needles and limb up trees. Ones that didn't do it are uninhabited properties. Two rubbish fires were happening when they shouldn't have been and the Fire Department gave one a citation. The other one he educated and gave brochure.

Tony DeBone mentioned the La Pine life skills kids. His wife, Kathy, nominated them for an award. They came to his house and loaded a trailer 4 times. He did chipping all by himself. They were really successful at his house. He suggested people give input on Knott Landfill's future. Tony shared that HB2222 is on track to reimplement SB360 notifying property owners of their responsibility if a fire starts on their property and gets away. It reminds the Oregon Department of Forestry of their reporting requirement. He's hopeful it will put pressure on fuels reduction on private properties.

Craig Letz thinks the City Club of Central Oregon would be good for forum topics. Feedback from the simulation was that they wanted to discuss more severity. Maybe we could get survivors from Paradise or smoke management as topics. They are looking for things outside of Bend.

Alison Green shared about the Learning Lab around a large-scale event like Paradise. Take aways from that event were to look into increased prescribed fire, electeds were asking about what to do to be better prepared. Katie Lighthall and she will put together messaging. She's partnering with Paula Simone for the COCC class offering structure ignition assessments. NFPA classes are close to \$8k. COCC is partnering with Gary Marshall for the NFPA slide deck. Boone Zimmerlee, Ed Keith and she will teach. They will cap it at 40 people per class. This will increase capacity for trainers and provide needed education. Her steering committee met earlier this month.

Bob Madden reported that last month he attended a congressional meeting and discussed fire adapted communities and firefighter losses due to extreme fire behavior. The majority of people were from the eastern part of country and were baffled by prescribed fire on the ground that we do in the west. It was a good program. They discussed the collaborative and cohesive strategy. The debris fire in LaPine got up and went to town. The house that was destroyed did not have a good Hone Ignition Zone (HIZ). The house next door did and spot fires didn't take. Spot fires went ¼ mile. It was a good firefight with a positive outcome in the end and an example of what defensible space can do.

Patti Gentiluomo shared that fuels reduction work is gearing up, chipping projects are going, they are cleaning up from the winter storm still, and just trying to get into fire season. Sunriver did a siren test yesterday that went well. They are not using the vocal capabilities of the sirens. The regular wale was normal. It sounded like a fire siren but hi-lo was better. The Fire Dept. transferred radios yesterday too.

Boyd Turner said his board meets every 6-8 weeks. The public attends those too. He used an example of Firewise being like vaccinations in that it protects the whole. He talked to a woman who lost her house in the Carr Fire. The most important thing lost to her were family cookbooks.

Gordon Foster reported that ODF is in the thick of getting seasonal hiring done. June 10th all staff will be on training and guard school. Hopefully there are no fires. They are setting up Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) fire detection cameras. They are also working on getting one for west Bend/Bull Springs area. ODF just put in community assistance grants and a landscape scale restoration grant with Walker Range.

Kevin Stock shared that the Forest Service is staffing up, and put analog lookout units up. Seasonal staffing starts on June 3rd. TREX and prescribed burning showed up during a good burn window so they were able to spread the love to all the communities in Deschutes. They received positive feedback; most people were happy. They might have another small window if the rain stops. June 14th is usually last day to burn. He has also been doing presentations on defensible space and prescribed fire. He highlights the red needle trees and what they'll look like 5 years later.

Pet Caliguiri updated the group on the prescribed fire training exchange, Fire Learning Network, & COFMS. Having very diverse trainees is fundamental to the program. They treated nearly 1,900 acres near communities in 9 operational days. They have trained over 150 folks from around the world over the past 5 years. This multiplies the message. He thanked people for the coordination.

Georgia Hill said the final chipping for the Ridge at Eagle Crest is finishing up with 57 cords of wood for Buela's Place, and 3,000 cubic yards of debris (7 times the material this year).

Marie and Jim Phillis with 12 members of the Task force for their HOA, ended up with 35 homeowners participating in an April clean up. Tillicum Village is 26 acres. They counted 187 volunteer hours and 50 cubic yards of debris. May 3rd they had 16 REALMS HS students, 2 teachers, and 4 homeowners for four hours. Everyone helped get Juniper bushes out and help private residents. The daughter of a homeowner shared about her loss in the Woosley fire in Malibu. May 4th was their FireWise community preparedness day. They had a total of 834 volunteer hours for all three projects. They also had an arborist take out some trees. Susie Maniscalco from the Bend Fire Department did Q and A for an educational event and said that clear cutting trees is not necessarily Firewise.

Glenn Voelz is doing student research on community resilience. He works with Nathan Garibay. He will be getting involved and will ask a lot of questions.

Dean Richardson lives on the Fall River but not the Fall River subdivision that had the fire. He is the only property owner that lives there full time. UDRC is starting to get people's attention. He remembers Tony's challenge to meet neighbors and talk about defensible space. He met some new people. They are doing work and like how it looks better too. The work that the Forest Service is doing along corridors shows what forest should look like (not overgrown). He liked the CWPP magazine and would like to get more to give out. More prescribed fire please.

Doug White appreciates Tony talking about the work on SB360. He remembers getting something when he bought property that he had to sign about obligations on fuels reduction. He's concerned about absentee landowners that have bitterbrush overgrown. He would like to see how we can get resources to hog bitterbrush to the ground. Forty yards is rough if you miss a season. Someone needs to tell people about their liability.

Adjourned 9:32am.



Health impacts of smoke

Smoke is made up primarily of small particles, gases, and water vapor. These particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs, damaging lung tissue and causing respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

Symptoms of short-term smoke exposure can include:

- Watery or dry eyes
- Persistent cough, phlegm, wheeze, scratchy throat, or irritated sinuses
- Headaches
- Shortness of breath, asthma attack, or lung irritation
- Irregular heartbeat, chest pain, or fatigue

Who is most impacted by smoke

Many factors influence a person's sensitivity to smoke, including severity and duration of smoke exposure and a person's health. Smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing health conditions and those who are particularly sensitive to air pollution. Sensitive groups include:

- Persons with asthma or other chronic respiratory diseases, such as COPD
- Persons with cardiovascular disease
- Persons 65 years of age or older
- Infants and children
- Pregnant women
- Smokers, especially those who have smoked for several years

Reduce the risk of smoke

- If possible, leave the area during periods of significant smoke
- Reduce time spent outdoors when smoke is present
- When smoke is present, keep doors and windows shut. Set your A/C or heating unit to recycle or recirculate when at home or in your car, to limit your exposure
- Reduce the time you engage in vigorous outdoor activity. This can be an important, effective way to lower the amount of smoke you are breathing in. It can minimize health risks during a smoke event
- Stay hydrated, drink plenty of water
- Reduce other sources of indoor smoke and dust. These can be burning cigarettes, candles, gas or propane ranges, wood burning stoves and furnaces, and vacuuming
- If you have heart or lung disease or respiratory illnesses such as asthma, follow your health care provider's advice about prevention and treatment of symptoms
- More vulnerable or smoke sensitive persons may consider using an indoor high-efficiency air filter (HEPA) or electrostatic precipitator for your home or to help create one or more rooms with cleaner air to breathe