



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

**September 17, 2019 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Vacant	Fire Rep 1	
	Doug Green	Fire Rep 2	Bend Fire Dept.
x	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
	Craig Letz, Vice-Chair	HOA Rep	Tree Farm
x	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
x	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
x	Boone Zimmerlee for 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
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
x	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
x	Tony DeBone	Commissioner	Deschutes County
x	Jodie Barram	Contract Director	Project Wildfire/FireFree

Public Present:

Jeff Amaral, Bend Parks and Recreation District
Greg Bryant, Deschutes River Woods #1
Jona Ensley, US Forest Service
Alison Green, Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative
Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Carl Jansen, Spring River
Bob Madden, Bend Fire Department
Ray Miao, Deschutes Rural Fire District Board/Woodside Ranch
Tim Moor, Sunriver Fire Department
Todd Peplin, Deschutes Soil Water Conservation District
Jeff Peters, Ponderosa Cascade
Leah Peters, Ponderosa Cascade
Stephanie Russo, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Lars Santana, Natural Resources Conservation Service (replaced Tom Bennett)
Boyd Turner, Eagle Crest
Helen Webre, Woodside Ranch

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Ed Keith, Chair. Introductions were made by those in attendance (name/affiliation).

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

The agenda was briefly reviewed. Meeting minutes from August 20, 2019, were approved by consensus.

Jodie Barram updated the committee on the Program of Work in the following areas:

- Fuels Treatment Program – A portion of DRRH1-5 will be chipped in October
- CWPPs - The Sisters CWPP is in its final stages. A preliminary meeting is scheduled in La Pine.
- FireFree - The fall FireFree dates are set and more information will be coming on that as it gets closer.
- Outreach/Education/Networking - She participated in the Crooked River Ranch Open House. She is also attending relevant Chambers of Commerce events to connect with the business communities in Deschutes County. She is coordinating with partners in Crook and Jefferson Counties on mitigation efforts in their areas.
- Firewise USA - Ponderosa Cascade and Touchmark Firewise USA Community Assessments are completed and they are seeking recognition. Multiple Firewise USA Community Assessments are being scheduled.
- FAC Net - She is coordinating with Alison Green, Jeff Amaral and Robert Newey on a prescribed fire tour in Shevlin Park this fall. She continues to participate in the Network.

PRESENTATION ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

Jodie Barram, Boone Zimmerlee and **Kevin Stock** shared the public presentation they have been using at homeowners' association meetings, neighborhood association meetings and other public events. The Prezi presentation covered the large fire history in Deschutes County, Senate Bill 360, what areas homeowners can look at and address in order of priority for creating defensible space with an introduction to Firewise USA for neighborhoods that want to work together to create defensible space. A PowerPoint about prescribed fire highlighted the history of logging and forest management in Deschutes County, the Cohesive Strategy, then showed how trees with red needles are actually not all dead, the top part of the trees remain green and healthy. This demonstrated the need for perspective when talking about the effects of prescribed fire. They asked for feedback from the Steering Committee to improve the presentation.

ROUNDTABLE

Boone Zimmerlee shared that fire season is wrapping up.

Patti Gentiluomo reported that Sunriver is moving on field work and getting things done. They are starting private property inspections and settling on a fuels contract.

Kevin Stock agreed that fire season is winding down. RAWs (Remote Automatic Weather Stations) had 2 inches of rain reported. COFMS is managing two fires, the Pacific Fire, and the IKT Fire in a lava flow. They are switching to prescribed fire, but this year might be tougher even though personnel are ready to go.

Jona Ensley said that the IFPL (Industrial Fire Precaution Level) was just dropped to a one which means no limitation.

Alison Green is working on a live prescribed fire tour with Bend Parks and Recreation District in and near Shevlin Park. There will be a tour at 11:00 am, and 2:00 pm on the same day. She shared two exciting things. First, prescribed fires with aerial ignitions. We need to see this to get ahead of mother nature. Smoke was a bit of a nuisance but it's worth the progress on the landscape. Second, on September 26th, the Forest Service is hosting a screening of the Big Burn movie with a panel discussion afterward. The event is free. She is hosting a defensible space course at COCC September 26th and 27th. The Friday class is full, and Thursday the 26th has three slots open. She expects these will be offered quarterly.

Ed Keith talked about the complexities of fuels reduction on wetlands. They are moving forward and doing work on lots in DRRH6 later this fall on County owned properties. With regard to the Smoke Management Plan, he is waiting to hear back from the Oregon Department of Forestry & Department of Environmental Quality to then take back to elected bodies. He hopes to be moving forward in the next few weeks.

Tony DeBone thanked the presenters and said he wants to get work done on his own property to improve defensible space.

Dean Richardson is proud to be a part of the steering committee. Defensible space is like work and takes time. A lot of people need to do it but many aren't prepared to do it. Public agencies are doing a better and better job but private lands are still at risk. The County has been helpful with chipping projects. He would like to see that expanded if funding is available. He feels south county is underrepresented in Project Wildfire.

Ray Miao thought it was a great presentation. His neighborhood hasn't done as much work recently. They are working on a new method with new contractor to be affordable during FireFree. He thanked Ed for the lead. Boone mentioned he has access to grants for areas over 5 acres, and common areas are eligible.

Nathan Garibay is still working on the emergency messaging update. They have fire districts in the Everbridge system. He joked that he hopes people don't hang up on RL Garrigus, the popular radio host, because that's whose voice they used to record the messages. Sisters-Camp Sherman, Crooked River Ranch & Jefferson County did a test of the system. He likes the local connection to get testing done. Now they are looking at a Deschutes wireless test county-wide. Not all devices are capable, but many are. He's currently working through any obstacles. Looking to what Butte County went through with the Camp Fire has been helpful. The goal is to accomplish by fire season next year.

Gary Marshall wanted people to know that the IAFC (International Association of Fire Chiefs) wildfire mitigation awards come out in November, and encouraged folks to please nominate.

Bob Madden reported that in Bend, they are watching the Governors wildfire response council. Some have been reviewing outputs from the subcommittees. He's disappointed they aren't embracing Cohesive Strategy. A single approach doesn't work on such a diverse landscape statewide. Bend will wait for outputs because our area is different than some in the valley. The map being used is identifying current science and layers that could be helpful. The final report may take more time. It's a work in progress. The most glaring thing is that federal government doesn't have a seat at the table but they are a big player. The group and process is not as collaborative as we are used to here in Central Oregon.

Tim Moor serves on the suppression committee for the Governors wildfire project, it's made up of 70% timber, and 30% public like in this room. One of his disappointments was around the funding for the OSFM (Oregon State Fire Marshal). OSFM doesn't have funding for suppression. If they spend \$10 million on a fire they have to ask the legislature for reimbursement. It takes all municipalities to get OSFM funding. ODF and OSFM collaborated to take steps forward. These (Project Wildfire) meetings are reminders to come together. How fortunate we are to have the relationships we do. It means a lot as we move forward.

Zechariah Heck shared that there is a Board of Commissioners meeting tomorrow to review the charter and select committee members. Tony updated the group on the map

they are looking at and that they are working with **Annette Liebe**, the Governor's Coordinator on the Central Oregon Regional Solutions Team in regards to recommendations coming out of the Wildfire Response Council that may affect us locally.

Jeff Amaral reiterated that there will be prescribed fire in Shevlin Park this fall and a tour is being organized.

Todd Peplin is working on a stakeholder grant. He intends to have it finished mid-October and submit by October 28th.

Dan Daugherty will be involved in the upcoming revision of the La Pine CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan).

Helen Webre reported that Woodside Ranch is sending an e-newsletter in mid-October with a theme of evacuation. There were two fires on Coventry Circle. People are trying to get communication going. Group texting might work well. Their neighborhood is concerned about new development in the area like the high school and housing. Barb West will speak November 20th at the East Bend Library Branch for their homeowners' meeting.

Leah and Jeff Peters – Thanked Jodie and Boone for coming out to do community assessment. Jodie and Boone will be speaking at the Ponderosa Cascade annual meeting on October 24th.

Carl Jansen is a board member of the Spring River Road District. He complimented Project Wildfire. Last spring over 45 piles were chipped in his neighborhood, a Firewise USA site. It took two days and a neighbor took the chips. They had their annual meeting of the road district, and Chief Supkis was there. He's concerned about two properties in the south county area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

