Community Assessment Process

Chase Duncan Stewardship Forester- Prineville/Sisters Unit

Oregon Department of Forestry

Assessment Day

- Interested parties meet in the community
- > You educate me
- I educate you
- Walk/drive the community
 - Looking for common themes
 - Potential fire scenarios
 - Good/Not so good
- Discuss what we saw/ next steps



After the Assessment

- Assessment Write-up
 - Site description
 - Potential Wildfire
 - Three themes
 - Each theme has specific opportunities for improvement
 - Community Action Plan
 - Outlines action items for the next three years
 - What you feel is priority and achievable from the assessment

Example COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION ACTION PLAN

I. Continue wildfire protection outreach and education to Owners about defensible space and measures to take when living in a wildfire-prone environment.

- Continue Firefree events at least once per year (to 2019).
- Offer Owners an opportunity to meet with fire professionals at a Community Forum to support Owner understanding and efforts to defend against wildfire. (2015 or 2016)
- Continue information outreach through e-mail, newsletters, Owners website and bill inserts. Introduce the concept of Home Ignition Zones (to 2019).
- Improve compliance of the bark dust policy (to 2019).
- Increase volunteer participation on Community and neighborhood common area projects (to 2019).
- With the help of a fire professional, identify the worst wildfire hazards in neighborhoods and the best examples of well-defended property on the Community (to 2015).
- Send information to landscapers who work on the Community that explains how defensible space is best created and why it is important on the Community (to 2015).
- Continue reviews of landscaping plans for new construction and modifications of landscaping. Continue to provide recommendations to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) for removal of trees during excavation prior to construction (to 2019).

II. Create plan to maintain/schedule work on Community commons over the next 10 years

- Establish a 10-year plan for continued wildfire protection treatment of Community common areas (2014).
- Establish criteria for native juniper and shrub density and spacing on Community common areas (to 2016).
- III. Work with Group and neighborhood associations on the Community to improve defensible space around rental properties and recreational areas such as golf courses.
 - Continue golfer outreach about wildfire risk (to 2019).
 - Establish communications to renters and visitors about wildfire safety (to 2016)
 - Establish and continue budget support for wildfire protection measures on Group and Community neighborhood common areas.

August 2014