



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

**January 19, 2021 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Ken Kehmna	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire Chief
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
X	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
X	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
		Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
X	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
X	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
X	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
X	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Vacant	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
X	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
X	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
X	Jessica Laberge	Business	
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

## **Public Present:**

Ariel Cowan – OSU Extension Services  
Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village  
Boyd Turner – Resort at Eagle Crest  
Brandie Foster – Central Oregon Realtors  
Alex Enna – Deschutes NF Fuels Program Manager  
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Jack Hamann – The Parks community  
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation  
Jodie Barram – Ready Set Go  
Kathy Baker-Katz – Wyndemere  
Kevin Hopper – Wyndemere  
Kevin Stock - COFMS  
Lars Santana – NRCS  
Lisa Mushel – CWNA  
Max Liedenfrost – Crescent Ranger District AFMO  
Nicole Mardell – City of Sisters  
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch/Deschutes Fire District #2  
Ross Huffman – Oregon Department of Forestry  
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were done through Chat

## **AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE**

Agenda and past minutes were sent out in a previous email. Ed solicited for any input and reminded folks to email Boone or himself directly if they found any needed changes.

Ed- Welcomed everyone to the meeting and the New Year. Folks were reminded that this was a review of the planned Program of Work for 2021. We will review of the work discussed in the small work group we convened in the first part of January. We will be looking for suggestions, modifications, and topic suggestions for Project Wildfire. We will also be sharing exciting news about a project after the Program of Work review. With that Ed turned it over to Boone.

## **Meeting Topic**

**Project Wildfire planned Program of Work for 2021 –**

**Boone Zimmerlee, Project Wildfire Director, Fire Adapted Communities  
Coordinator for Deschutes County**

Boone – Discussed the connection between the mission of Project Wildfire, the strategic objectives, program of work and how the planned activities are related to the former. From there Boone began to discuss the planned activities for 2021.

CWPP revisions will include the Greater Bend CWPP. There are 7 CWPP's within Deschutes County that are on a 5 year revision rotation.

Fire Free is currently being planned for the Spring of 2021 with a similar time frame of last year with 3 weekends and the 2 weeks in between. Tentatively we are planning for FireFree to happen the first of May. Dates will be getting finalized in the coming weeks. The West side location is currently being worked out.

Three defensible space classes are being planned this coming year. Yet to be determined if they are in person, held at COCC, or virtual. Boone will coordinate with Paula Simone on feasibility of in person at COCC.

Joint Chiefs (JC) grants will continue in Southern Deschutes County with the last round of JC grants being offered to communities in the coming spring.

Firewise efforts will continue, we have several communities in the process to becoming recognized at any given time with more inquiring on a regular basis.

Fire Adapted Communities Network (FAC Net) activities. Related to Firewise and the CWPP's are two story maps that are being created. The Firewise story map will highlight and celebrate the success of communities and assist communities interested in becoming recognized. The CWPP story map will offer easy access for folks to learn more about CWPP's and provide a place to bring consistency across the CWPP's within the county.

Outreach will continue to come in the form of multiple community presentations. Every few weeks we have been doing HOA annual meetings. In 2020 Fire Ready Bend was canceled, but this year we will be revisiting the event and hopefully able to do outreach through the event. Project Wildfire will also be working to present at events put on by Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association (ABNA), Century West Neighborhood Associations (CWNA) and other community events as they happen.

VIA chat, question regarding a get together similar to the awards BBQ that generally happens in the spring before the fire season. Boone-This would be nice to hold, but will depend on COVID and fire season activity for timing and ability to hold.

At this time Boone solicited for input for any missed opportunities or projects that are being planned for 2021 that would benefit with help from Project Wildfire.

Ed also solicited for additional projects and added that we have a running list of topics for the Project Wildfire meetings and are always looking for relevant topics to have at the meetings.

VIA Chat, question about planned evacuation drills for communities. Boone- In the past Nathan Garibay has put these on for communities. Not sure if he plans to do any this year, we would have to ask Nathan. Unfortunately Nathan is not on the call today, we will need to follow-up with him.

VIA Chat, question asking if the Westside site will be operating. Boone- We hope to have the site again this year. At this time we are currently working with Brooks Resources to use the same site, this will depend on timing and construction activity. Ed- added that the previous site on Simpson was owned by the county, but now the OSU owns it and it is becoming part of the campus. Since the selling of the Simpson site we have been using the Skyliner site at the Tree

Farm. Jeff Amaral- Added that there is a temporary trail that we need to work around when the time comes for FireFree.

VIA Chat, questions regarding insurance representation at Project Wildfire including homeowner policy building costs and staying up to date. Boone- We currently don't have any insurance representation in Project Wildfire, but if you know someone from the insurance industry pass it on to invite them to our meetings. Ed- It would be good to get an insurance rep to talk at a meeting to discuss policies and what should on your policy before a wildfire event. We will continue to look for someone that can come in for at least one meeting.

Ed- People can send us more input after the meeting as well. Ed turned it over to Lars Santana (NRCS) and Alex Enna (USFS) to discuss Buttes to Basins.

Lars- The Joint Chiefs projects are proposals put together between NRCS and USFS. In Oregon two proposals were approved, one here (Buttes to Basins) and one in Lake County. Requested over \$13 million over three years not sure if that is the funding they will receive. NRCS mostly focuses their work on private lands. NRCS is currently taking applications from landowners. This is a cost share covering 50-75% of forest management cost, usually focusing on 15 acres or more.

Alex- Took over a year to put this proposal together. Looks like \$400,000 for NRCS \$1.8 million for USFS. There was lot of work that went into the request, as part of the proposal they put together a story map (<https://bit.ly/Buttes2Basins>). Funding hasn't shown up yet so not sure how funding will break out. Most of this work will focus on fuels reduction, but also has some aquatic habitat enhancement and treatment of noxious weeds. The Ochoco Forest also has a similar project along with Mt Hood National Forest, lots of good work east of the cascades.

Ed- Glad to hear the news, this will help with a lot of needed work.

Boone- In effort to explain how funds are distributed and reach down to community level, said that funds will get disbursed between several agencies. USFS, NRCS, ODF, and Deschutes County. USFS will have funds for their fuels projects, NRCS will fund larger private landowners, ODF will also fund private landowners and Deschutes County will focus on individual lots at the community level.

Ed- At this time turned to the roundtable discussion.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Boyd Turner- work continues with Firewise, residents have been concerned with evacuations. They have created a 2 sided handout to help folks out. Ed- will try to make the connection with Nathan in regards to evacuations.

Brandie Foster- representing Central Oregon Realtors Associations (CORA). Often wildfire and the need for fuels reduction impacts re-sale of homes. It is nice to be part of making the connection between home realty and fire preparedness. Looking forward to increasing the communication between realtors and Project Wildfire resources.

Ross Huffman- ODF Stewardship Forester- Have grant proposals in and waiting to hear back if they are getting awarded or not. Ed- If you haven't met Ross, he is the new Stewardship Forester for the Sisters sub-unit.

David Morman- Red Cross- They turned over care and feeding of those who were impacted from the fires this past fire season to the state at the end of December.

Dean Richardson- Upper Deschutes River Communities- Continue to urge folks to do work as most communities are at high risk from wildfire. Participated in the recent wildfire outreach survey, wanted to provide more feedback. Would like messaging to be wider spread to all of the county. Ed- clarified that the County ordinances would only impact the unincorporated portions of the county where the County has jurisdiction, if they are adopted.

Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village- Held annual meeting, Boone presented at the meeting discussing defensible space. Bert appreciated the time on Saturday. Bert is intrigued by Boyd's evacuation handout and would like to share newsletter items between communities as well. Ed- Mentioned he just sent a list of ideas to Woodside Ranch and that we could share the suggestions out to all.

Doug Green – Sisters and Bend Fire- City of Bend is about to start a fire resiliency task force. First meeting will be next week. This group will come up with suggestions to help Bend become more fire resistant. The group is expected to have recommendations to go to City Council in June. City of Sisters is also looking to do something very similar in the near future.

Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest- Budget is approved for a year of activities handling fuels management.

Dave Gibson – Black Butte Ranch- Working to improve home defensible space standards for Black Butte Ranch. This would be in addition to SB360 standards they currently use.

Gordon Foster – ODF- Introduction of Ross Huffman, he just started on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Like Ross had stated they are waiting for word on grants. The E-Board gave ODF additional funding that he will be reaching out to folks about.

Kathy Baker-Katz – Wanted to introduce Kevin Hopper, he is a new board member for Wyndemere. They are planning to do some outreach in Wyndemere. Interested in having someone speak at their annual HOA meeting.

Jack Hamann – The Parks HOA- Jack and his community work to get greater buy in from residents. Glad to see we have realtors being represented and likes the idea of sharing newsletters. Made a point about finding middle point for balancing values around homes.

Kevin Hopper – Wyndemere- Have got their Firewise signs up. Glad to see the work being done in his neighborhood. Would like to connect with Bend Parks about projects on their lands.

Lisa Mushel – Century West Neighborhood Association- Holding planning session for April associations meeting. Would like to have it focused around fire preparedness. Will be contacting Boone for coordination. She maintains an email list for many residents and can reach many folks.

Patti Adair – County Commissioner- Glad to be part of Project Wildfire, she will be replacing Tony DeBone on the steering committee. Hope to get the FireFree dates set earlier this year compared to last year. Having your insurance up to date is very important. Asked question

about glazed windows. Ed- Unsure of exact glaze window properties, but windows are required to be double paned or tempered glass under the enhanced state building code known as R327.

Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch/Deschutes Rural #2- Thanks to commissioners for the grants and thanks to Ed for newsletter ideas. Deschutes #2 is supportive of the ordinance that the county is looking at. Hopefully the city will also adopt the code. Forming “CHAT” group, China Hat Action Team, discussing how they can assist the county and USFS to decrease the risk of fire.

Bob Pohly – Mountain High- received their Firewise signs. Working updating contractor list. Happy to see Joint Chiefs is getting funded as many contractor have been asking.

Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD- recently completed a success story of the work being done in South County under Joint Chiefs. This was turned in to a story map that turned out well. <https://nracs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=18c02144b8094367b5f8d4726f5f098b>  
Looking forward to working on Buttes to Basins.

Alex Enna – USFS Prescribed Fire Planner- Looking to have a more normal prescribed fire season in the spring. Planned work includes; Cascades lakes Hwy, areas west of Tetherow, work near Sunriver with more work around Sisters on SAFR projects. Boone- Asked how best to stay informed on planned burning. Alex- Most updates will be posted on [www.centraleregonfire.org](http://www.centraleregonfire.org) this will be the best way for folks to stay informed.

Kevin Hopper – Asked how Project Wildfire is getting messages out recognizing that fire safety videos don't get lots of views. Ed- we rely on our organic spreading through word of mouth and also working on utilizing additional networks moving forward. Central Oregon Realtors is a current example of that outreach. Brandie – Everyone needs to be an individual verbal champion.

At this time Ed thanked everyone and concluded the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM.