



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

**April 20, 2021 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

X	Ken Kehmna	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire Chief
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
X	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
	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
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
X	Kevin Stock	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
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
	Jessica Laberge	Business	
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

**Public Present:**

Ariel Cowan - OSU  
Bill Boos – Bend Fire  
Brandie Foster (Brandie)  
Craig Letz – Independent Consultant  
Dan Dawson -  
Erin Kilcullen – Deschutes SWCD  
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods  
Jane Merrow - North Rim HOA  
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Rec  
Jodie Barram – Ready Set Go  
Jon Wood – Redmond Fire  
Joyce Baker – Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Kris Green – Deschutes National Forest  
Kyle Collins – Deschutes County, Associate Planner  
Nicole Mardell - City of Sisters Planning  
Nicole Strong - OSU Extension  
Peter Brewer – Department of Environmental Quality  
Ray & Chris Miao – Woodside Ranch  
Rick Unzueta – Black Butte Ranch  
Sheldon Rhoden – Bureau of Land management  
Thomas D Stokely – OSU Extension Services  
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD  
Tony DeBone – Deschutes County Commissioner

**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 reminded folks to mute themselves and do introductions through the chat.

Boone – Covered monthly program of work update. The spring 2021 FireFree events are planned with the FireFree.org website updated with dates and flyers for Deschutes and Jefferson Counties. Held a virtual defensible space class on April 15<sup>th</sup> that Project Wildfire offered along with help from local partners including OSU, ODF and Sisters Fire. An announcement with a link to registration will come out soon for an additional class planned for May 20..

Ed – Introduced Nicole Strong and turned it over to her.

## Meeting Topic

### **Oregon State University Extension Services – Nicole Strong, Regional Director, Central Region**

Nicole Strong – Covered the overall extension program goals and the services offered. This included Agriculture, Food Systems and Gardening, Youth Education and Outreach, Resilient and Productive Ecosystems, Lifelong Health and Well-Being. Nicole turned it over to Thomas and Ariel to cover specifics of the programs they work directly in.

Thomas Stokely – OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Assistant Professor. Thomas discussed his background including his childhood growing up with both parents working hands on in the outdoors. He has a BS from School of natural Resources, university of Missouri with a M.Sc., PhD. From College of Forestry, Oregon State University. Much of his work/studies at OSU was working on vegetation and wildlife dynamics with intensive forest management including herbicide use. Much of his current daily work is technical support to help inform decisions being made on private property. The focus is natural resources/forest ecosystem health and how it pertains to social values in nature. Much of Thomas' experience in social values falls heavily in wildlife, applied research, forest management and ecosystem services. Collaboration with partners is an important piece in accomplishing projects and fulfilling the role of applied research. Landowner support is a large part of the extension role much of this support is accomplished through education and outreach.

Future project ideas included trails mapping in conjunction with fuels projects, high school wildlife habitat piles, wildlife friendly fuels treatments and prescribed fire and forestry diversity.

Ariel Cowan – OSU Regional Fire Specialist, Central Region

Ariel obtained her masters form Oregon State University. Much of her expertise is in Forest Ecosystems, with much of her research done here in Central Oregon on the Pringle Falls experimental forest. These were soil studies post prescribed and wildland fire.

The fire program includes a program manager Carrie Berger, a State Fire Specialist, Daniel Leavell, along with 6 regional coordinators throughout Oregon. Ariel covers portions of Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Lake, Wasco, Wheeler, Grant and Klamath Counties.

The overall goal for the fire program is to empower people to live well with fire. This is supported through education, outreach and includes landscape scale project assistance. Ariel looks forward to meeting with landowners and working with partnerships and collaboratives. She is currently working with 3 collaboratives and many other partnerships. Fire Aware Fire Prepared is one of the ways the fire program has been reaching out to communities. This webinar series is being held on Wednesdays at noon and is available to all residents within the state.

They are several other programs her and her team are working on including; a prescribed fire curriculum with hopes that in long term there will be an increase in prescribed fire on private lands and an ongoing project to update the Fire Resistant Plant Guide. Locally, Ariel has been participating in Fire Ready Bend, local Joint Chiefs Projects, assisting Project Wildfire with the Wildfire Home Protection Strategies Class, CWPP updates within different counties, and working with people on indigenous lands.

The extension services works to be an added value to the programs that are already in place. Ariel posed a question through Menti about what folks would like to see from OSU extension program. Dean- Asked Thomas about thoughts on managing lodge pole for structure diversity. Thomas said he was working with the Deschutes Collaborative for recommendation on lodge pole management and those would be out soon. Ariel posed a second question of who extension services should be geared towards.

Ariel thanked everyone for their participation and turned it back over to Ed.

#### Links-

Fire Aware Fire Prepared Webinar - <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide>

Extension Catalog – <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>

Ask an Expert – <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-expert>

Extension Website – <https://extension.oregonstate.edu>  
[www.Foodhero.org](http://www.Foodhero.org)

Your local Extension Office – <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/findus>

Ed – Turned the meeting over to a roundtable discussion with updates.

### **ROUNDTABLE**

David Morman – Put a link in the chat to schedule appointments for home safety plans. He asked folks to share the link within their networks. <https://www.redcross.org/local/oregon/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>

Kevin Stock – Has officially taken the COFMS fire staff position as Alex Robertson has taken a position with the region. Prescribed fire season is beginning, he noted conditions are dry and the window of opportunity may be short without precipitation in the forecast.

Gordon Foster – VIA email – Fuels have been dry, there have been a few escaped fires. Soon fire fighters will be hired on for the fire season.

Dean Richardson – Upper Deschutes River Communities noticeable increase in participation in the grant program this year. On average home owners are spending more than the grants offer. Low income and disabled grant program still has funding. <https://udrc.org/>

Oliver Tatom – Happy with the respondents from the mailing we did in order to reach out to his community. He is looking forward to the assessment planned for today.

Ray Miao – Woodside is doing their FireFree clean and thanked the commissioners for the grant opportunities. Ed – Likely, the county commissioners will be increasing the amount available to home owners.

Patti Adair – Always happy to help. Every dollar spent is so worth it and is a “Win Win”. She has been giving out FireFree cards with the 10 tips to folks including realtors to try to get the word out. She thanked everyone for the call today. Ed – He will get cards to Brandie, also there is a new handout about to go to print along with a video recorded by Patti Adair discussing FireFree.

At this time Ed Closed out the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 AM.