



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

**May 18, 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
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
X	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
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
	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
X	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	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:

Anne Pierson – DRRH9
Ariel Cowan - OSU
Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village
Bill Boos – Bend Fire
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest
Brandie Foster - Central Oregon Realtor
Chris Paul - OSFM
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Jane Merrow - North Rim HOA
Jason Fehr – Chubb Insurance
Jodie Barram – Ready Set Go
Jon Wood – Redmond Fire
Joyce Baker – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Kevin Hopper – Wyndemere HOA
Kris Green – Deschutes National Forest
Kyle Collins – Deschutes County, Associate Planner
Nicole Mardell - City of Sisters Planning
Ray & Chris Miao – Woodside Ranch
Rick Unzueta – Black Butte Ranch
Shelby Knight - COIC
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD
Tom Welle - OSFM
Tony DeBone – Deschutes County Commissioner

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were 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. **Project Wildfire has recently begun to use Constant Contact** for meeting reminders and follow-up. Using this feature allows email recipients to manage their email preferences more easily and Project Wildfire to deliver content in a more efficient manner.

The spring 2021 FireFree events are now switching to the transfer stations, which will run May 22 - June 5 during regular scheduled hours. FireFree.org website is updated with dates and flyers for Deschutes, Jefferson, and Klamath Counties. On May 20, there is a planned *Wildland Fire Home Defensible Space Strategies* class that Project Wildfire is offering along with help from local partners including OSU.

After working on a revision of materials we have printed a final tri-fold that is aimed at being a handout that refers to Project Wildfire and FireFree while providing a simple graphic to explain defensible space and the 10 steps that homeowners can take to prepare their homes. A [printer friendly version](#) is also available. The tri-fold is available if anyone is looking for a simple handout for homeowners and residents, contact Boone to acquire copies.

At this time, Boone transitioned from the monthly update to presenting the monthly topic.

Meeting Topic

Current Conditions and Tracking Fire Season Trends – Boone Zimmerlee

Boone – Started the presentation by briefly discussing his role on large fires as a Fire Behavior Analyst and his role as support to the regional coordination center. During fire assignments, he supports informing decisions regarding safety, strategies and tactics on existing fires and in the analyst role at the coordination center, he tracks current fire season conditions and supports informing decisions around priority fires and resource allocation.

Boone led the group through a quick discussion of fire behavior vs fire danger. Following this he discussed average fire season trends of fire danger this was followed by a brief discussion of where we currently are in that average yearly trend. A wildcard that can influence how busy the fire season is, are the number of ignitions that happen. Ignition sources are often in the form of lightning with multiple starts overwhelming firefighting resources and leading to large fire growth. We looked at current fuels conditions keeping in mind that moisture we receive during green-up can moderate early season conditions. There are several resources available for trending fire danger and uses of those indices that trend the season. Boone explored resources from the local dispatch level to tools ODF uses and looked at resources the region uses to trend fire danger across Oregon and Washington.

[Boone's presentation](#) is available with all the embedded links [here](#).

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

ROUNDTABLE

Nicole Mardell- City Sisters - Added a link to the [Sisters Comprehensive plan](#).

Rod Bjorvik – Sunriver Fire - Had a recent visit with USFS, SROA, Deschutes County and ODF, to look at the Sunriver Ladder Fuels Reduction efforts in Sunriver. He thanked everyone for coming out and providing input.

Ariel Cowan – OSU – Upcoming webinars around wildfire are still be planned and available to the public. [Beav.es/FAFP](#) The OSU extension team is also looking at opportunities to have field tours of prescribed fire in the fall.

Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch - 77 participants for the spring fire free, with 5,800 cubic yards taken to the landfill. Ray thanked the County for the grant opportunities.

Bill Boos – Bend Fire and Rescue – Burning will be closing May 31 in District No 2. This is dependent on the forecast.

Bob Pohly – Mountain High HOA - Thanked the County for the grant opportunity. This spring they emptied a 30 cubic yard dumpster 3 times. BNSF frontage has been worked with 160 more cubic yards being removed from that area. Full report to come.

Lisa Mushel – CWNA – Thanked everyone for presenting at the CWNA annual meeting. This included Thomas Stokely, Ariel Cowan, Amy Joe Detweiler and Boone Zimmerlee. A playlist of the [wildfire preparedness videos](#) can be found on their YouTube channel.

Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest – Been working with Nathan Garibay and evacuation planning. They held a meeting in May and one planned for June.

Chris Paul – OSFM – He is part of the new Community Risk Reduction program. OSFM is looking at how they can work with groups like Project Wildfire. They are a new program and working out what their goals are.

Tony DeBone – County Commissioner - Firewise is moving forward in his neighborhood. Had a walk with La Pine Fire Chief, ODF and Boone to look at defensible space. Official drought declaration is being requested from the irrigation districts. Boone added that a neighborhood next door to Tony's community is also looking into Firewise recognition.

Dean Richardson – UDRC - Happy green-up. Been doing property assessments some in the Lazy River neighborhood. Dean visited a new owner that was emotional about his trees and discussed the difference between hazard trees that are a fire hazard and which are a hazard due to other reasons. Many trees were not fire hazards, but were hazard trees for other reasons.

David Morman – Red Cross - Begun conversations for evacuation sheltering with emergency managers.

Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village – Took over for Bert Neumaier. Been working with the TV board in making the Firewise volunteer position a permanent position as part of the HOA.

Dave Gibson – Black Butte Ranch - Working with ODF to get a Forest Management plan in place to guide projects and qualify for grants through NRCS.

Gordon Foster – ODF - With E-Board funding, ODF has staffed up with firefighters earlier than usual. Just declared fire season, earliest declaration in 40 years. ODF is closely watching SB 762 as it progresses. The State Forester recently turned in his resignation, a new State Forester to be identified soon. ODF has a new grant in the Sisters area, Three Creeks; it will become available July 1.

Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods – With their spring event 176 residents removed 400 yards and contributed 600 hrs. of work on Firewise practices.

Chris Green – COFMS Fire mitigation Specialist - Detailed for another few weeks in the fire mitigation position. With May being fire preparedness month USFS has started their campfire safety messaging.

Nathan Garibay – Staffing changes at the Sheriffs Office, Mike Biondi is the new Special Services Lieutenant, along with Hayley Riach now in a permanent position and will soon be

working on the long-term recovery plan. Nathan has been working on Zone Haven Evacuation as a pilot program to examine evacuation preparedness and efficiency. The recent evacuations have pushed the servers to their limits and they will be looking into fixing the issue before fire season. Wrapping up the NHMP there will be a virtual public meeting in the near future. There have also been many inquiries into evacuations and planning from communities.

At this time, Ed thanked everyone for joining and closed out the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM.