



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

**August 17, 2021 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:00 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	
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Kyle Collins	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
X	Chase Duncan in for Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
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:

Beverly Halcon – Crossroads
Brandy Foster – Central Oregon Association of Realtors
Chris Paul - OSFM
Craig Letz – Independent Contractor
Erin Kilcullen – Deschutes SWCD
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Jane Merrow - North Rim HOA
Jeff Amaral –
Lars Santana - NRCS
Nicole Mardell - City of Sisters Planning
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Sheldon Rhoden – Bureau of Land Management
Steve Herr – Brokentop Community
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD
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 as this helps to capture attendance in notes.

Ed – Began the discussion of the monthly updates by reminding folks of the upcoming grant opportunities for Firewise Sites in Deschutes County. To learn more visit www.Deschutes.org/grants Ed also covered a brief update on the recently passed Senate Bill (SB) 762. This included the creation of four rules advisory committees. Tuesday's (today) rules advisory committee is to produce a definition for Wildland Urban Interface as one of the first steps in proceeding forward with SB 762.

Boone – Provided additional updates including welcoming Skyliners to the network of Firewise. Currently there have been five communities added so far this year with several additional communities with application in process and pending review.

Ed then transitioned from the monthly update to the monthly topics for this month.

Meeting Topic

Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPPs) across Deschutes County – Ed Keith, Deschutes County Forester and Boone Zimmerlee, Project Wildfire Director

Using the recently created CWPP Storymap to navigate the CWPP's, Ed started the discussion by providing some back ground information on the creation of CWPP's in Deschutes County. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2004 first introduced CWPP's. It was quickly recognized in order to get grant funding your area needed to have a CWPP in place. This initially led to the creation of the Greater Sisters and the Upper Deschutes River Communities CWPP's. In a short amount of time, the County ended with 7 CWPP's on a 5 year revision rotation. These CWPP's have been revised several times improving the plans, partnerships, sharing of information and overall consistency between the CWPP's.

Ed also made note that the CWPP boundaries do not end at the county line. As an example of this Greater Sisters extends into Jefferson County in order to encompass the Sisters Camp Sherman Fire District Boundary. This is also true in the East and West CWPP with Alfalfa and Brothers Hampton. The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is identified in the CWPP's as well. As a side note, there may be implications to how that works once a new definition is identified from the passing of SB762.

Ed quickly discussed the maps within the "Planning Area Description" and "Community Assessment of Risk" being interactive allowing the viewer to navigate around within the maps to learn more. Depending on the map, you can find links to the current CWPP's and learn more about the vegetation found across the county. Links to each CWPP is also provided in the side pane next to the map.

Within the risk maps are a few of the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer (OWRE) layers we use to identify the risk within the planning areas. Since its creation in 2019, the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer has been used to quantify the risk in the CWPP's as they are revised. Each revised CWPP has a 35-page risk report that accompanies the CWPP in the appendix. Using this tool is less subjective and is a more consistent when comparing between CWPP's.

The presentation transitioned to Boone as he went through "Protection Capabilities", "Action Plan and Implementation" and finished up with a discussion on the current CWPP under revision, Greater Bend.

While discussing protection Capabilities Boone discussed the two dispatch centers, the partners that have protection responsibility and closest resource dispatching. The USFS, BLM, ODF, nine structural departments and one RFPA have protection responsibility. These organizations, along with the residents and communities within the county represent the partners involved in our CWPP's.

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy provides the three goals that the CWPP centers around, fire adapted communities, resilient landscapes, and safe and effective fire response. From these three goals, recommendations along with supporting resources are found within each CWPP. Within the CWPP's across Deschutes County, the recommendations are reduce hazardous fuels on public lands, reduce hazardous fuels on private lands, reduce structural

vulnerability, increase education and awareness of the wildfire threat and identify, improve and protect critical transportation routes.

Greg Bryant - asked a question regarding if it would be easier to have one CWPP or to have the seven CWPP's. Boone – Having all the different CWPP's does cause for several duplicated meetings between years and in some years this happen twice when two CWPP's are updated. This does cause for additional workload for Project Wildfire, federal, and state partners. Having one CWPP for the county would need to recognize the differences throughout the county. One CWPP structured similar to past CWPP's, having sub-regions within the CWPP would be a possible way to streamline revisions. This structure would have one overall CWPP with each of the current CWPP's being a sub-region within that CWPP. In this structure, once every 5 years would be heavy in meetings and work, but would allow for more time in between years for implementing the CWPP by Project Wildfire and several of the partners versus time spent revising at least one each year.

Ray Miao – On the recommendations, is there a way we can capture land use planning as we build into the WUI? Boone – In regards to the Bend CWPP, since it is under revision this would be the time to discuss further. Boone to follow-up with Ray. Within the Bend CWPP there is a section that discusses land use planning and refers to the Westside transect and the planning that went into The Tree Farm, this may need to be referenced in other sections of the CWPP to raise awareness. Most items related to planning are currently addressed under the goal of reducing structural vulnerability.

Boone – The current CWPP under revision is the Greater Bend.

(https://www.projectwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/202010707_Greater_Bend_CWPP_DRAFT-withRA.pdf) The Greater Bend CWPP is out for public review and is planned for signatures in September. The updates to the CWPP included adjusting the planning area boundary in the southeast corner to include federal land to insure it is identified as WUI. Accomplishments were updated including the addition of accomplishments from Bend Parks and Rec, City of Bend and the County Planning Department. The assessment of risk was updated using the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer to bring it in line with other recently revised CWPP's. We also added an updated map of critical transportation routes. The action plan and implementation section was also reviewed by the CWPP steering committee.

Dean Richardson – Attended the La Pine CWPP revision meetings and was surprised to see little representation from the communities. Boone – I would agree some CWPP's have low participation from the community. Interesting to see the different levels of participation between the planning areas. As we kick off a CWPP revision, notification is put out to the Project Wildfire email list (~380 people) and sent to the Firewise communities email list (~175 people). We also reach-out directly to communities and residents that have been involved in the past. We are always working to maintain and increase participation.

Ed – Added a link to the CWPP Storymap (<https://bit.ly/DeschutesCWPPs>) to the chat and turned the meeting over to roundtable updates.

ROUNDTABLE

Ariel Cowan – OSU Extension - Life on the Dry Side was just released. This edition focuses on drought. This September OSU will be bringing back Fire Prepared Fire Aware series.
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/life-dry-side-forestry-newsletter>

Tony DeBone – County Commissioner - The Storymap tool has been good to share and digitize all the steps we do in preparation of wildfire. Looks forward to the day we can have low intensity fires walk across the landscape and nobody is overly concerned. To the Project Wildfire group, unfortunately COVID is on the rise again, was looking forward to having all in a room and having a face-to-face meeting. It would be good to have even an outdoor get together. Ed – Thanked the commissioner for bringing it up. We were planning an in person for this meeting, but with COVID on the rise we opted to do virtual. We will work on finding a way to meet n person.

Chris Paul – OSFM – Community Risk Reduction Program is still being built out. Appreciate discussing how COFMS and Central Oregon works. His experience in doing one CWPP for the county can still have challenges. You do not want to lose the details of the regions within the county.

Patti Adair – County Commissioner – Inquired whether the cause is known for the Grand View Fire. Commissioner Adair been working with residents along McKenzie canyon and evacuation routes. Ed – Started on ODF protected lands. Chase Duncan – ODF – Investigation is still ongoing.

Chase Duncan – ODF – ODF has grant coming on for areas west of Bend and into the Sisters area. Fire season continues to keep ODF busy, currently there are no ongoing fires on the Sisters/Prineville Unit.

Lars Santana – NRCS – Enjoyed the Storymap and suggested being able to add in the accomplishments to the Storymap to be able to show all the work being completed between partners. Buttes to Basins Joint Chiefs project is ongoing, working on planning 283 acres of projects in high priority areas. Continuing to take sign-ups for next year through November in planning for fiscal year 2022. If anyone knows of landowners that would be interested send them his way. Asked if county grant does any post wildfire work. Ed – It does not, but he did make some notes on this as a subject to look into.

David Mormon – Red Cross – Local manager, Kristin Heath, has promoted on within Red Cross. Red Cross will be recruiting this position after the fire season.

Dean Richardson – UDRC – Enjoyed the retrofit guide to home hardening. UDRC defensible space program had twice as many applicants from previous years. Residents doing defensible space has been contagious. https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LWF_RetrofitGuide_Accessible_for_Web.pdf

Erin Kilcullen – SWCD – Assisting Lars with joint Chiefs, SWCD plans to do outreach soon.

Ray Miao – Deschutes No.2 – The fire district has 50% cost share grants available. You can contact Gary Marshal for more information. <http://dcrfpd2.com/>

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.