



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

**March 15, 2022 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

X	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire
X	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
X	Kyle Collins	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
X	Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
X	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
	Jessica Laberge	Business	
	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Andy Meeuwesen – Country Financial Insurance
Beverly Halcon – Sisters Camp Sherman Fire
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest
Cameron Scott – ODF GNA Forester
Echo Murray – Walker Range Forest Protection
Elie Gaines – Bend Community Resident
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Heather Miller – Oregon State Fore Marshals
Jane Killefer – Tollgate HOA
Jane Merrow – North Rim HOA
Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire
Kyle Reed - OSFM
Liz Anderson -
Lon Leneve – Awbrey Butte HOA
Luke Wimmer -
Mike Mulligan – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Robert Newey – Deschutes National Forest
Ross Huffman - ODF
Shawn Jaca – COFMS, US Forest Service
Todd Peplin – SWCD
Tom Welle – OSFM
Yana Valachovic – Humboldt and Del Norte County University of California Extension Forest Advisor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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.

Introductions were through Chat.

AGENDA

Agenda and past minutes were sent out in a previous email.

Ed - Covered the agenda for the meeting. Due to time constraints, monthly program updates were addressed after the meeting topic.

Ed introduced Yana Valachovic as our guest speaker and set the stage for the topic for the month.

Yana Valachovic is the County Director – Forest Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. She has co-authored papers on fire behavior in California forests and the intersection of fire performance in home and landscape design. She is active in California policy development and has been a technical resource for

bioenergy, forest management, home hardening, and improvements to defensible space legislation. She is interested in helping communities achieve wildfire resilience.

Meeting Topic

Structure Loss Causes during the Camp and Marshall fires – Yana Valachovic.

Yana – Introduced herself followed by a brief overview of California’s fire requirement history. Two times are important to defensible space and home hardening in California, 1965 there were vegetation requirements around buildings within the wildland. In 2005 and 2008 there was an expansion of defensible space to 100’ and building codes that addressed home hardening.

First, Yana discussed her studies in to the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise California resulting in 18,804 structures lost. This study related to the building and defensible space requirements in California. From her study there was a correlation found regarding proximity of structures to one another along with a correlation to the age of the structure.

The more recent Marshall fire of December 2021, with over 1,000 structures lost, also provided a case study for Yana and the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS). In this study, they focused on the transition of wildland to structure ignition and looked at what allowed one home to survive while another did not. Much of the study pointed to the importance of the home hardening efforts. There were also several examples of fences and vegetation within the 0-5’ zone that lead to structure ignition.

Yana’s take home messages were, all plants burn, fire safe landscaping requires maintenance, home hardening is an important piece of structure survivability, we should thinking about what the priorities are and we need to have a paradigm shift. The paradigm shifts included; similar to earthquakes and tornados we should be building smarter, embers are the main cause of home ignition, unified messaging is important, WUI codes are helping, incentivize home hardening retrofitting, and we should incentivize the 5-foot noncombustible zone.

At this time, Yana opened the discussion for questions and answers.

Greg Bryant – Was there push back on building codes? Yana – On new buildings there were not, we are having some trouble figuring out what to do with existing buildings. Likely, this will have lots of push back. Hoping to utilize funding sources like FEMA.

Jane Killefer – What is the status of requirements through SB-762? Ed – They are yet to be determined. Likely, Project Wildfire will be sharing info as it becomes available.

VIA Chat – What are your thoughts on vinyl vs wood siding? Yana – If we have done our 5-foot of non-combustible space, the materials of the home matter less.

Ray Miao – Do you have messaging that resonates with homeowners? Yana – In many examples evacuations happened with little warning. It is important to keep consistent messaging. We built our homes in a time that is different from the current reality and need to make our homes and families safe.

Gary Marshal – Have the organizations you work with talked about allowing people to stay and protect their homes as they get building materials and defensible space in place? Yana – Many

of the agencies are not comfortable with folks staying. Informing people in how to prepare themselves if they end up staying is an important piece however. Yana encourages folks to prepare and leave early.

Dean Richardson – Given structure spacing and doing what we can to protect our own, what do we do about residents worrying about their neighbors that have not done the work? Yana – We need to continue to do our work around our homes, this includes leading by example. Take care of what we can and be the example.

At this time, Ed thanked Yana for her time and turned the meeting over to Boone for program updates.

PAST MINUTES and PROGRAM UPDATES

Ed solicited for any input past meeting notes and reminded folks to email Boone or himself directly if they found any needed changes.

Boone – Provided updates including FireFree, Defensible Space Class, Greater Redmond CWPP and Firewise Communities.

FireFree dates are set with a press release coming to go out in the immediate future. Current dates are Knott landfill, April 30 – May 15 and transfer stations May 21- June 4. For the full details on dates, please visit <https://www.firefree.org/firefreeevents/>

Defensible space classes are moving forward with classes planned for April timeframe. Once dates are finalized, the specifics of the class will be shared out.

The Greater Redmond CWPP revision has begun. We are currently gathering accomplishments from partners. If you want to receive updates you can be added to the email list here. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/wpEkGqb>

ROUNDTABLE

Robert Newey – Bend Fort Rock Fire Management Officer – Robert presented a short presentation of three key projects that are near communities in southern Deschutes County. These projects include Oregon Water Wonderland (OWW), Forest Lane and Fall River Estates. The OWW project is 38 acres surrounded by subdivision. Activities will include thinning of small trees and pile burning followed by mowing in 10-15 years. Forest Lane is 282 acres adjacent to private property. This will include mowing followed by another mowing in 10- 15 years. Fall River Estates will be 1,125 acres. This will be a combination of thinning, piling, pile burning with broadcast burning, mowing followed by maintenance in 10-15 years.

Ross Huffman – Stewardship Forester ODF – ODF received a grant that to be applied within the three counties, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes. In Deschutes, the grant will focus on the communities of Deschutes River Rec Home sites 1-5, 8 and 9. A chipper program will also be available through this grant program. <http://odfcentraloregon.blogspot.com/>

Gary Marshal – Deschutes Fire District No 2 – There are two grants happening in local communities. The fire district also has funds available for additional fuels reduction with a

deadline of June 1. <http://dcfrpd2.com/information-and-programs/fuels-reduction-small-grant-program/>

Patti Gentiluomo – SROA – VIA Chat, Due to the mild weather, able to go to bid early for Ladder Fuel Reduction (LFR) and tree thinning on 197 acres of commons. Hope to secure contracts soon. They continue to work on updating the LFR Plan.

Ed – Reminded folks that next month we will be doing a hybrid meeting with in person and virtual options.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.