



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

**April 19, 2022 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 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
X	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
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
	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	Ben Duda for Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
X	Shawn Jaca for Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	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 – Sisters Camp Sherman Fire
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest
Brent Ten Pas – Central Electric
Cameron Scott – ODF GNA Forester
Craig Letz – Tamarack Wildfire Consulting
Echo Murray – Walker Range Forest Protection
Ellie Gaines – Deschutes River Woods
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village
Georgia Hill – The Ridge at Eagle Crest
Heather Miller – Oregon State Fire Marshals
Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire
Lorelei Mariana – DRRH6
Josh Lagalo – Youth Employment and Training Manager, COIC
Robert Newey – Deschutes National Forest
Stacy Lacy - COFMS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ed- Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded folks on the Zoom call to mute themselves and do introductions through the chat as this helps to capture attendance in notes.

AGENDA

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

Ed - Covered the agenda for the meeting and turned it over to Boone for a monthly program update.

Boone – FireFree will be kicking off April 30 and running to June 4 with Knott operating April 30-May15 before turning to the transfer sites which run May 21- June 4. More details can be found at www.FireFree.org If you are interested in volunteering contact Boone.

Firewise communities continue to be active with many communities planning events throughout the county during the month of May. Many of these communities are looking for guest speakers. If you are interested in meeting with a community contact Boone. Boone also shared his tracking of all Firewise sites that are in process of obtaining recognition. There are several communities in each RFD. If you are interested in getting to know, or assisting these communities in reaching recognition contact Boone.

The Greater Redmond CWPP is under way with the second meeting planned for Wednesday April 20. Shortly after the April CWPP meeting the final DRAFT will be out for public review. The end goal is to have a final plan signed by the end of July.

Oregon State Fire Marshals will be putting on defensible space classes. The defensible space classes that Project Wildfire had planned for this spring will not be held since the OSFM classes

will be available instead. Contact Heather Miller for more information.
Heather.Miller@osp.oregon.gov

Ed - Introduced Cameron Scott as our guest speaker and set the stage for the topic for the month.

Meeting Topic

Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) -
Cameron Scott, Oregon Department of Forestry – GNA Coordinator

Cameron – Introduced himself and the topic. First Cameron covered a brief history of how the FFR program came about starting in 2009, the passing of GNA by congress, to the passing of SB762 in 2021. The core mission of FFR program is to “accelerate the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration to increase the resilience of Oregon’s federal forests, in a manner that leverages collaborative efforts and contributes to the long term vitality of regional economies and rural communities.”

Good Neighbor Authority is the mechanism that allows State agencies to enter into agreements with the federal forests to get the work done. GNA was authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. Locally it has been in use since 2016. Activities include hazardous fuels treatments, insect and disease control, tree planting, habitat improvements and more.

The Forest Restoration Program puts out a report every year of accomplishments and planned activities. Cameron walked through the overall process of completing projects and discussed how and who does the work along with local examples of projects recently completed. Non-commercial work can be funded through GNA timber sales, Forest Service appropriated funds or ODF “crew dollars”. NEPA work can be funded through PACE grants. Pace funds are aimed to alleviate bottlenecks in the planning process. Along with the PACE grant there are several other grants utilized to facilitate the process of completing these projects.

Locally there are ODF crews conducting thinning and sale layout on both the Ochoco and Deschutes national forests. With all the work happening in FFR, the number of completed projects are expected to continue to increase making our forest more resilient. Not only has this increased the health of our forest, but there have also been several new jobs created.

You can learn more about the FFR program at: <https://oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/federal-forest-restoration-program.aspx>

At this time Cameron opened the discussion to questions.

Ed – Provided an example of how ODF has funded the collaborative locally including funding for a research project.

Dean Richardson – Do correction crews get used for these projects? Cameron – As of now the work has been getting done with ODF crews. There is a possibility of using the corrections crews in the future.

Ed – Will the recently announced funds (\$43.1 million) translate into funds that can be used for FFR? Do you know what ODF's involvement be with these funds? Cameron – This is something we have been discussing before the funds were announced in hopes of identifying process and projects in getting the needed work completed.

Boyd Turner – How does BLM fit into the program? Cameron – So far in Central Oregon BLM has been less active than western Oregon, but ODF is open to working BLM and FFR.

ROUNDTABLE

Ed Keith – In the meeting reminder sent via Constant Contact, there was info on SB762. ODF is looking for public input on the rules, there are 3 meetings happening this week that you can provide input at. You can also provide input by sending it to sb762rules.rulemaking@oregon.gov

The board of forestry is hosting their first in-person meeting here in Bend. The meeting will happen April 27-28, the meetings are open to the public. There will also be a tour as part of the meeting that will focus on the West Bend area. More information can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/pages/bofmeetings.aspx>

David Mormon – Red Cross – Home fire safety campaign is happening now targeting Sisters. In May, Bend will be the area of focus starting the week of May 16th. At any time Red Cross will come to your home for a free consultation, you do not need to wait for these events.

Bob Pohly – Brought attention to the continued homeless problem in Central Oregon. Mountain High neighborhood will be holding a hot dog lunch May 7 at their gazebo educating residents on defensible space.

Heather Miller – OSFM – Overall OSFM has been busy. Heather is arranging for a defensible space class here in Central Oregon. If you are interested you can contact Heather at heather.miller@osp.oregon.gov OSFM is also hosting webinars for wildfire preparedness month (May). These webinars can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/oregon-office-of-state-fire-marshal-6841216627> OSFM is offering defensible space grants for schools and hospitals as well.

Ben Duda – ODF – Introduced himself as the acting Unit forester filling in for Gordon Foster.

Dean Richardson – UDRC – They will be holding their first in person meeting. UDRC are looking forward to getting things moving again.

Ed – We have submitted Andy to the steering committee seat as the insurance representative. Andy – looking forward to being part of the group and planning to speak at a near future meeting.

Patti Gentiluomo – SROA – VIA Chat - In the final draft stage of a major update to the Sunriver LFR Plan. Signing contracts for our 2022 LFR work on commons. Sent out private property LFR enforcement letters. Defensible space, home hardening, and emergency preparedness campaign in the April/May Sunriver Scene newspaper.

Georgia Hill – RECOA - The Ridge at Eagle Crest will be holding its annual FireFree event April 29 - May 9.

Ed – Reminded folks that next month we will be doing a hybrid meeting with in person and virtual options. Brent Steel will be our guest speaker at the May meeting discussing public attitudes towards wildfire. Do not forget to share out the FireFree events happening soon, details can be found at www.Firefree.org

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.