



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

**May 17, 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 Meeuwssen	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
	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
X	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
X	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
	Shawn Jaca for 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
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:

Andrew Myhra – Sister Ranger District
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest
Brent Steel – Oregon State University
Craig Letz – Tamarack Wildfire Consulting
Elie Gaines – Deschutes River Woods
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Heather Miller – Oregon State Fire Marshals
Jeff Crawford – Fuels, Bend Fort Rock
Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire
Joyce Baker- Ridge at Eagle Crest
Kevin Robinson – Prevention, Sisters Ranger District
Luke Wimmer -
Mitch Lex – Heart of Oregon
Phil Chang – County Commissioner
Simone Cordery-Cotter - OSFM
Stacy Lacy - COFMS
Travis Bootes – Cloverdale Fire
Todd Peplin - SWCD

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 is in transition between Knott Landfill ending and the Transfer sites starting for free yard debris drop off. The transfer sites will run May 21- June 4 during normal operating hours. More details can be found at www.FireFree.org

Firewise communities among others were busy this past weekend. May 7th was Wildfire community preparedness day. Several communities sent in pictures from their events. Big thanks to all the partners that participated in meeting and working with the communities. If you are interested in which communities in your area are Firewise recognized, please reach out to Boone.

The Greater Redmond CWPP is in final DRAFT and out for public review. The CWPP has been shared through [constant contact](#), [Project Wildfire webpage](#), [Deschutes County CWPP Storymap](#), [Project Wildfire Blog](#) and on [social media](#). If you have any comments on the plan please reach out to Boone. In June we will have a meeting to discuss any comments gathered, the end goal is to have a final plan signed by the end of July.

Ed - Introduced Brent Steel as our guest speaker and set the stage for the topic for the month.

Meeting Topic

Brent Steel, Oregon State University - Director and Professor, Public Policy Graduate Program, Political Science Program, School of Public Policy. Brent will be discussing his studies into [Public Attitudes Toward Wildfire: A Survey of Homeowners in Central Oregon](#)

Brent – Started with goals and methods of the study, to understand the who and why people are more likely to engage in wildfire mitigation behavior. This study was similar to a study done in 2012 and is related to a study being worked on with OSU, U of O and PSU. One of the differences between this study and others was applying cultural theory to wildfire risk.

The survey participants were divided into 4 cultural dimensions- Fatalism: less control social roles, act independently; Hierarchy: less control social roles, act collectively; Individualism: more control social roles, act independently; Egalitarianism: more control social roles, act collectively.

The survey was mailed out, 1500 participants received the survey with 458 surveys returned. Survey participants were divided into the 4 cultural dimensions then correlations were made with regard to Firewise behaviors.

Included in the Firewise behaviors were questions about various types of home protection activities, home hardening practices, what their perceived likeliness of having a fire near their home, where people obtained information, whether they were rural or more urban and many more questions. Brent discussed the results of these data.

At this time Ed opened the discussion to questions.

Andy Meeuwsen – Country Financial - Curious if Brent believed the percentage of folks that are aware of insurance requirements will go up given the new legislation. Brent – He believes so, in a past study it showed that those with insurance were more likely to stay and rebuild in an area post wildfire.

Todd Peplin – SWCD – Has there been studies correlating education with the cultural dimensions? Brent – Yes there has, this would be interesting to see how it is changing in Deschutes County with all the growth it has been experiencing. Todd – Should we be trying to move fatalist towards egalitarianism? How do we and should we be changing peoples views? Brent – Yes, and you can influence folks especially in a one on one scenario.

Phil Chang – County Commissioner – How does offering cost share and technical support influence Firewise behaviors? Brent – Did not have this as part of this survey, but believes this is a big influence. In a different survey this was a question to participants, results showed that many said they were significantly more like to do work if they received financial assistance. Dean – in the UDRC area financial assistance looks to increase the activity that is happening.

Ed – Encouraged folks that if they are interested there are many insights within [the paper Brent has published](#) on the subject making it well worth the time.

ROUNDTABLE

Heather Miller – OSFM- ASIP class is planned in near future, registration closes on the 18th (class is full). OSFM is hosting a webinar series, this week will focus on evacuations, next week will be focused on fire resistant plants. Evacuation preparedness webinar <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/be-ready-be-set-go-oregon-evacuation-levels-tickets-329195983047> Fire resistant plants on Tuesday, May 24 at noon <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yes-fire-resistant-plants-are-a-real-thing-tickets-329209984927> The defensible space code development meeting is also happening tomorrow (5/18) at 08:00.

Bill Boos – Bend Fire and Rescue – He sits on the Oregon Fire policy board. One of the concerns all the way to Washington, is insurance and folks being dropped. As of now he is not seeing that as a concern. Andy – We have been seeing large increases in premiums as much as double from 12 months ago, but has not been seeing folks being dropped. Having the ability to offer an insurance product is a concern to him. Ben Duda – Recently had a landowner in La Pine that was being dropped from their insurance. It is concerning that this was due to conditions on property beyond the property line. Bill – Bend fire has a new fire marshal along with several prevention officers.

Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest - Appreciated the discussion and the take home point of the HOA's being a source of information for residents.

Patti Adair – County Commissioner - Shared her experience with past fires. After the fire her insurance would not take her back. This was while she was living in a different state in 1993.

Andy Meeuwsen – Would like to continue with being guest speaker next month.

Bob Pohly – Mountain High has been quite active in Firewise activities. They had a hot dog lunch with a great turn out despite of the 46° weather.

Ben Duda – Lots of folks out on fire assignments supporting other states. Chipper grant is going with good response from residents. Many seasonals are on for the season and supporting USFS in Rx burning.

David Morman – Red Cross - Nationally May is their home safety month. They are focused in Romaine Village in Bend installing smoke detectors. Year around anyone is welcome to make an appointment for this in home service. Region wide disaster services volunteers will be gathering for the first time in 3 years.

Dean Richardson – UDRC – Has been busy on his personal property improving defensible space. UDRC has grants focused on folks with special needs; these grants have kept folks busy.

Greg Bryant – DRW - Held their annual meeting last Thursday. Boone presented for the community. Heart of Oregon will be coming out to review lots.

Jeff Crawford – USFS – Burned 200ac off Cottonwood Drive with 500ac more planned. ODF has been a great resource in completing Rx. Resources are supporting New Mexico as well.

Jodie Barram – OLWF- City Club will be holding a panel discussion around wildfire and building resilience. There will also be an Rx tour in Sisters by invitation only.

Kevin Robinson – USFS Sisters Prevention – Sisters Ranger District will be burning a SAFR unit south of town along with an IFR unit. Appreciated the discussion today.

Joyce Baker – RECOA – Just finished with their FireFree efforts. They filled 6 30-yard dumpsters and 59 10-yard dump trailers with debris. Pat Rick Environmental is finishing the current project chipping. ODF will be out to help with planning the use of SB762 funds.

Mitch Lex – HOC – Received grant funding from SB762. Will be doing a 250ac project north of Crooked River Ranch. They are hiring a fuels planner position to plan future work.

Nathan Garibay – Emergency manager – Identified 10 evacuation points. This will help to mobilize folks in the event of an evacuation. Thursday will be a test of the Deschutes Alert System for folks that are on the opt-in list. The test will help folks to ensure their information is entered correctly.

Tom Mooney – Will be presenting open burning regulations to their fireboard. They are also doing the final reading of the adoption of the State Fire Code to the fireboard.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.