



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

**July 19, 2022 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Meeting notes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	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	Sisters Fire
	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
	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
	Ben Duda	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
	Vacant	Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Jane Killefer, Tollgate
David Trachsel, Ponderosa Pines
Ray Miao, Woodside Ranch, DCRFPD#2
Kelly Esterbrook, Skyliners
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Lauren Street, Central Oregon Wildfire Workforce Partnership
Rod Bonacker, Indian Ford The Hill
Frank Ammirata, Tillicum Village
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD
Sarah Worthington – Deschutes County Health Services
Melissa Steele – Bend Fire and Rescue
Jeanne Coulson, Elkai Woods
Laurence Le Mercier, Skyliner Summit at Broken Top
Suzanne Butterfield, Awbrey Park
Pam Hovies, Elkai Woods
Ross Huffman, ODF
Heidi Sprenger, COFMS
Jake Derksen, Black Butte Ranch
Kevin Cornelius, Brasada Ranch
Steve Maurer, Ponderosa Pines
Kim Durkee, Broken Top
SueAnn Alleger, Skyliner Summit at Broken Top
Joyce Baker, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Chrissy Christoferson, Brooks Resources
Robin Church, 3 Pines
Ruth Bauman, Elkai Woods Fractionals
Randy Bauman, Elkai Woods Fractionals
Heather Miller, OSFM
Patty Cassidy, The Cliffs
Gary Miranda, The Cliffs
Dennis Huserik, Arrowwood Summit
Kevin Cornelius, Brasada Ranch
Mike Oehl
Sheldon Rhoden, COFMS
Elizabeth Weide, The Parks
Sharon Tryon, Rock O the Range

Note: email ed.keith@deschutes.org if you attended and weren't included above, with over 50 attendees some names were inadvertently missed.

Reminder: please [see the meeting recording](#) for all the details and discussion during the meeting, these notes are a summary.

WELCOME, AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ed welcomed everyone to the meeting, did a review of the agenda, and introductions were made around the room and through chat. Agenda and past minutes were sent out in a previous email, and [posted to the Project Wildfire website](#), please send Ed any corrections.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ed provided a few updates on the Project Wildfire program:

- The Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator is still in the process of being filled.
- The fuels reduction discretionary grant is open and accepting applications. You can find out more information here: <https://www.deschutes.org/bcc/page/deschutes-county-announces-grant-program-fund-projects-reduce-wildfire-risk>

Meeting Topic: Firewise Communities Share Recent Fuel Reduction Projects

Ed introduced the topic and shared one example. Sage Meadow is located in the Greater Sisters area and recently completed a project focused on removal of flammable shrubs in the immediate zone around homes. A few before and after slides were shared.

Ray Miao, Woodside Ranch: Woodside Ranch has been doing projects since 2003. This year they removed about 5000 yards of debris. One big effort has been educating people on what to do to achieve defensible space. Challenges have included sustaining funding to do the work, new residents moving in that don't understand the need to do the work, and finding contractors. The neighborhood asks people to sign up several weeks in advance and then schedules the time period for people to bring material to the roadside.

Elizabeth Weide, The Parks: The Parks is a newer Firewise Site, located on the west side of Bend, they used 8 roll off dumpsters for people to add yard debris to. The event was announced with a flier. They also worked on a common area that had abundant fuels. They have put together several newsletters, links below.

<https://express.adobe.com/page/qbbZeysCNERDK/>

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/4Sbb7sTc3AXH5/>

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/TEIB0pr2xii42/>

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/Q5eGZ0yGO9FJM/>

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/iRwxUE9JEAS36/>

Dean Drabin, OWW1: OWW1 is located 6 miles south of Sunriver. OWW1 has been working on defensible space for 20 years, through periodic projects which have mainly been sweat equity roadside chipping. Dean provides an update each spring that a project is going to be happening, which helps maintain momentum throughout the neighborhood.

Bob Pohly, Mountain High: Mountain High is in southeast Bend. Mountain High is landscaped with a lot of juniper, arborvitae and mugo pine shrubs which are highly flammable. Education is a focus and Mountain High includes information in their newsletter, offers free home assessments and they feature a Firewise presentation at each annual HOA meeting. The past two springs they have provided roll off dumpsters as well as curbside pickup for people creating and maintaining defensible space. They also had a community BBQ with a defensible space presentation. They have also been removing juniper shrubs in the common areas.

Gary Miranda and Patty Cassidy, The Cliffs: The Cliffs is located near Dry Canyon in Redmond. The Cliffs focused their efforts this spring on the arborvitae in the immediate area around homes. They started off their efforts by hosting a presentation to homeowners from Boone Zimmerlee and the Redmond Fire Chief. They then identified participating owners and lined them up with an arborist who cut and removed the arborvitae from the neighborhood. 75 of 92 shrubs in the 0-5' zone were removed, 20 were removed in the 5-30' zone. They were initially more worried about the canyon but came to realize through the Firewise risk assessment that the flammable shrubs in the immediate zone posed more of a risk so that is where they have focused their initial work.

Rod Bonacker, Indian Ford, The Hill: The Hill is located in the Greater Sisters area. The Hill has been coordinating debris removal for the past three years, prior to that they had done work on access and egress. This past spring they hired a landscape contractor to help with debris removal. Homeowners do work on their own properties and the contractor and volunteers haul away the debris. This year 36 of 50 lots participated which is a large increase from previous years. Finding a contractor was a challenge as others have mentioned. Next year they will likely place a limit on the quantity of materials that can be hauled/removed from each lot. They will also be asking people to separate limbs from needles and other debris and they hope to focus more on thinning and limbing rather than annual buildup of debris. They also see a need for continuous education. Rod is hoping to have a debris burning clinic to teach people how to burn safely and efficiently.

Ruth Bauman, Elkai Woods Fractional HOA: Elkai Woods is located southwest of Bend. When becoming a Firewise Site they made a three year plan to prioritize work in three areas. They were able to complete the work planned in the first year in all three areas. They quantified their risks in their risk assessment and based on that they decided to focus on fuel reduction as several other considerations were in good compliance. They still have work to do but are off to a good start.

Don Rodenfels, Timber Ridge: Timber Ridge is located in southeast Bend. They planned their project based on their new action plan as they are a new Firewise Site. They have focused on fuel reduction work within 100 feet of homes near the railroad tracks, and this was mainly a volunteer effort. They also use a contractor to remove debris twice a week, and this is an ongoing effort.

Greg Bryant, DRW #1: DRW is a large subdivision south of Bend. DRW utilized three roll off dumpsters located throughout the community. They use websites to update people on the project and the status of the dumpsters (full/empty). They were vigilant about what was allowed in the dumpsters. Dumpsters were typically filled in 2-3 days and dumped weekly for five weeks.

Suzanne Butterfield, Awbrey Park. Awbrey Park is located on Awbrey Butte in Bend. The Awbrey Butte project is similar to others so Suzanne took the opportunity to provide a few reflections. First, with more Firewise Sites, dollars are going to be spread out among more communities, and the need to be efficient with the dollars is important. Suzanne noted the consistent need of education and stressed using or developing the best material that could be used between all communities. She also asked if we could work with nurseries to guide people when purchasing plants to be directed to fire resistant plants. Coordination of contractors

between neighborhoods could help share limited resources as well. Suzanne also noted that it would be interesting to have a few demonstration sites in communities to illustrate good defensible space. These grants have been a good public private partnership that has leveraged a lot of match on the County's initial investment.

Questions / comments:

- Sharon Tryon asked if there were any HOAs that provide information to new buyers before a sale is completed? Bob Pholy says some of their requirements are in their CC&Rs that people receive before completing a purchase, and they do have a welcoming committee.
- Laurence Le Mercier asked about estimating costs for the grant application? Yes, an approximate estimate would be good, but some things such as exact participation numbers are harder to know. How does Mountain High know how many people are participating? Early communication on the project is a key, and then providing a cutoff for people signing up, and then counting participation as the project progresses.
- Gary Marshall provided a reminder that most homes are lost due to embers and that means we still need to focus on cleaning roofs and gutters removing all flammable material in the immediate area within 5 feet of the home. This is true even for fire resistant roofs and siding due to wood attachment points.
- Dean Richardson mentioned that UDRC has worked with the BNSF railroad and they have provided funding for fuel reduction efforts.

At this time, Ed noted that time for the meeting has passed even though there were further comments, and thanked everyone for joining and closed out the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.