



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

October 18, 2022 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

DRAFT Minutes

[Meeting Video Link](#)

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire
	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 Meeuwssen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	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
x	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
x	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
	Ben Duda	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Shawn Jaca for Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
x	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
	Joe Stutler for County Forester	County Forester	Deschutes County
x	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
x	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
	Jessica Laberge	Business	
x	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
	Vacant	Program Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Gregory Bryant, Deschutes River Woods
Heather Miller, OSFM
Jodie Barram, OLWF
Stacy Lacey, COFMS
Robert Newey, Deschutes NF, Newberry Division
Mitch Lex, Heart of Oregon Corp
Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD
Joyce Baker, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Frank Ammirata, Tillicum Village
Elizabeth Weide, The Parks
Kevin Robinson, Deschutes NF, Sisters Ranger District
Susanne Holmes, Elkai Woods Fractional
Diane Holmes
Ray Miao, DCRFPD#2 and Woodside Ranch
Sarah Worthington, Deschutes County Public Health
Craig Letz, Tamarack Wildfire Consulting
Robin Church, Three Pines

Note: Email forester@deschutes.org if you attended and weren't included above.

Reminder: Please see the meeting recording for all of the details and discussion. These notes are a summary.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Nathan Garibay. Introductions were made by those in attendance (name/affiliation) and in the Zoom chat for those attending virtually.

AGENDA & PROGRAM UPDATE

Nathan went over the defensible space grant applications that were recently awarded. They had to pare down to fund \$100,000. He encouraged people to apply next year too.

Deschutes county has a job offer out for a County Forester. The November Project Wildfire meeting is cancelled because the person will start mid-November and Nathan, Jodie and Joe will all be gone that week. They also hope to have a new Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator hired by then. They recently did interviews for that. Both people will be in place by the December meeting.

Jodie offered to help any Firewise sites if they have questions or need anything in between. Joe and Nathan are monitoring the forester@deschutes.org inbox.

They are processing payments for existing grants so people don't have to wait.

OSFM COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Heather Miller talked about the Community Risk Reduction Unit of the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal (*presentation slides are attached below*). The unit was established in 2021 through Senate Bill 762 to increase preparedness, grow prevention and education capacity at the local level and mitigate risk for life and property loss.

The way the office is set up is with local positions in each region. They have regional staff in the 3 positions throughout the state and those regions can be varied. For example, while Heather covers Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson and Wheeler counties, they also have 1 deputy for Jefferson, 1 for Deschutes and 1 for Crook & Wheeler.

- Deputy State Fire Marshal – Fire code enforcement and inspections, investigations, and more
- Regional Mobilization Coordinator – Mobilization support, incident response, mutual aid
- Fire Risk Reduction Specialist – Wildfire preparedness, community risk reduction, HIZ training, education and outreach

Heather shared a map of the seven regional areas. People are local to the region they are serving in. Fire Adapted Oregon is an initiative developed to address the priorities in SB 762 for Emergency Response, Economic Incentives, Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. Their goal is to tie in with fire response districts and prepare communities for fire. They have a great website with information on grant opportunities, trainings, educational webinars and defensible space code information. They are working on an assessment tool for people to access for self-assessments or for fire departments to use to assess properties.

Upcoming funding opportunities can be found on their grant web page. People can also email OSFM.grants@osp.Oregon.gov for more information specific to local governments and the public.

Ariel Cowan brought up Project Wildfire having an abbreviated version of the Assessing Structure Ignition Potential (ASIP) class. She wanted to let folks know that if there is still interest, it's out there for people to use. Heather has access to that four-hour version and can assist in presenting it.

Ray Miao complimented Heather on the ASIP class she hosted in Redmond recently. He asked about a grant that closed in October and wanted to know if it was coming around again in the spring. For Deschutes Discretionary Grants, people would need to apply through the County. Heather said that their office is looking at public assistance type grants. People can sign up on the webpage she shared. They have a grants coordinator that will guide the process.

FALL FOREST FUELS TREATMENTS AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

Robert Newey, Division Fire Management Officer on the Newberry Division of the Deschutes National Forest presented on the interactive map that's on www.centraloregonfire.org. The dots on the map are units planned for burning. He highlighted priority areas. The map doesn't include pile burning. In the Fall they focus on restorative prescribed underburning and pile burning. In Spring, they focus on high priority WUI acres. Spring has weather conditions which allow for better dispersal of smoke. They are aware of the smoke impacts and try to minimize that. They are looking at areas by Pine Mountain and right along the 18 Road.

The map has polygons of the areas. The symbology shows what is happening. If the dot is red it's an active burn or near-term. The black dots are in patrol status and being monitored. Green dots are planned areas. Ariel had a question about when PIOs are notified of the burns. They work closely and populate an early season message and also the fall burning with an overall intent of where they'll generally be burning. Then they get more specific as the day gets closer. They looked at some areas in South County and Robert explained units around Sunriver.

Sisters has areas by Highway 20 that could also be burned this fall. Crescent is doing the same thing. The Ochoco is also doing some. They're looking at a larger project based on their differences in complexity.

Pile burns, while not populated on the map, are generally burned in the Fall and Winter months requiring increase soil and fuel moistures to be successful.

They light the slash that's left after treatments. It removes excess material that's not marketable. On Bend-Fort Rock they have about 5,000 acres of piles to burn. When conditions warrant they'll look at opportunities to burn across the forest.

The 90-day pause gave them the chance to look at agency policies. Here, they've been really successful. They are implementing the recommendations now and revamping burn plans. They are doing more training with line officers and crews on the ground. On the Deschutes, their plans met or exceeded the standard already. They have plans to deal with the possibility of an escaped burn. There's been some delay but conditions haven't been right for burning yet.

Ariel asked about the green dots on the map. She wondered if some were rollovers from last year. Robert said yes, some are for various reasons. It's been 3-4 years that they've gotten a bit of a backlog. Some units have been planned for up to 10 years. Greg Bryant asked how often do you reenter a unit. Robert said that they should be doing it based on fire return intervals. It needs to be on a routine basis, and they shoot for 2nd and 3rd entry based on a 5-to-10-year rotation. All burning should be condition based. NEPA can sometimes adversely impact the timing for second and third entry. Green tree replacement is often a positive result of prescribed burning improving wildlife habitat with course woody material inputs.

Greg asked about the percentage of the forest that is considered for prescribed fire and what is done with the rest. Robert shared that the Central Oregon landscape is a fire adapted ecosystem and regardless of the species at one point would have experienced fire. In a world of post-settlement and current Land Resource Management Plans the fuels condition is generally in a poor condition across the forest. Increased and repeated treatments ranging from timber harvest, ladder fuels reduction projects, and repeat prescribed fire is essential to move the landscape into an more ecological healthy state. The Forest Service takes a stance that we suppress 100% of our wildfires. With this direction it is essential that we increase prescribed fire efforts and apply beneficial fire where we can. In the past the focus was following timber sales however in the last decade plus we have been focusing more on the WUI targeting areas where we can make an important impact to protecting lives and property. Restorative prescribed burning treatments are also important and we work to implement where we can.

Robert gave an update on Cedar Creek. It's transitioning to another team and they are reducing forest closures. It's staffing continues to decrease. He also caught the film [Elemental](#) in Sisters. It does a good job talking about home hardening but missed the boat with fuels treatments. Ariel asked if he was invited to any panel discussions. He had not. She hopes they do invite someone who can give more context locally. It's going to be shown in Bend at the Tower Theater on November 11th. Nathan said that Bill Boos might know who is going to be on the panel for that showing.

ROUNDTABLE

Nathan wanted to remind people to sign up for prescribed fire text alerts. Text COFIRE to 888-777.

Elizabeth shared that they used [Martin Boer Goats](#) recently working on open space areas. They did a fantastic job and she recommends them.

Frank reported that he took about \$2,000 of their last grant and extended their spring and fall debris pick-ups. It's significantly reduced the amount of fuel. He thinks it made a much larger impact.

Greg said that they got a grant and will spend that next year. He also met with Heart of Oregon and will be focusing on some lots that need work.

Robin thanked the county for their grant. They are planning later this month, early November to have landscapers come haul debris away. They just reached out to Heart of Oregon because they have some older residents that could use the help.

David Morman reported that some Red Cross volunteers were sent to assist with Hurricane Ian.

Jodie reported that for Oregon Living With Fire, they are working with both the Ochoco and Deschutes collaboratives. She is also helping add capacity to the Project Wildfire program until a Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator is hired. They recently submitted nearly \$100 Million in grant applications.

Fall FireFree is coming up October 29 – November 5. The next meeting will be December 20, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

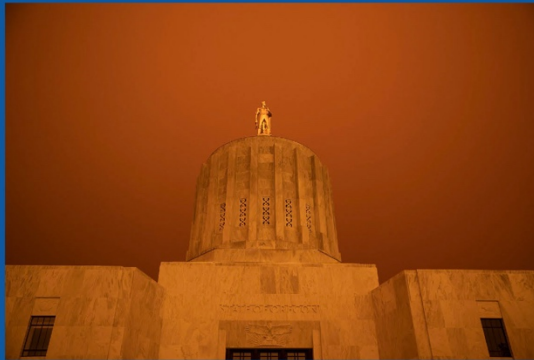
Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Community Risk Reduction Unit

Since 2021

Heather Miller
Fire Risk Reduction Specialist



Community Risk Reduction Unit



Senate Bill 762 Section 8, Subsection 5

"...State Fire Marshal shall administer a community risk reduction program that emphasized education and methods of prevention with respect to wildfire risk... and community preparedness for wildfires."

»» Increase preparedness

»» Grow prevention and education capacity

»» Mitigate risk for life and property loss



OSFM Regional Staff



OSFM PROGRAM FOCUSES

HOW THE OSFM CAN SUPPORT YOUR AGENCY

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHALS	REGIONAL MOBILIZATION COORDINATORS	FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALISTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT & INSPECTIONS FIRE INVESTIGATIONS CODE INTERPRETATION GUIDANCE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS & WATER SUPPLY PLANS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOBILIZATION SUPPORT & REQUESTS MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE & GUIDANCE INCIDENT RESPONSE NEEDS MOBILIZATION PLAN ASSISTANCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PLANNING & FUNDING ASSISTANCE HOME IGNITION ZONE TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMUNITY EVENTS

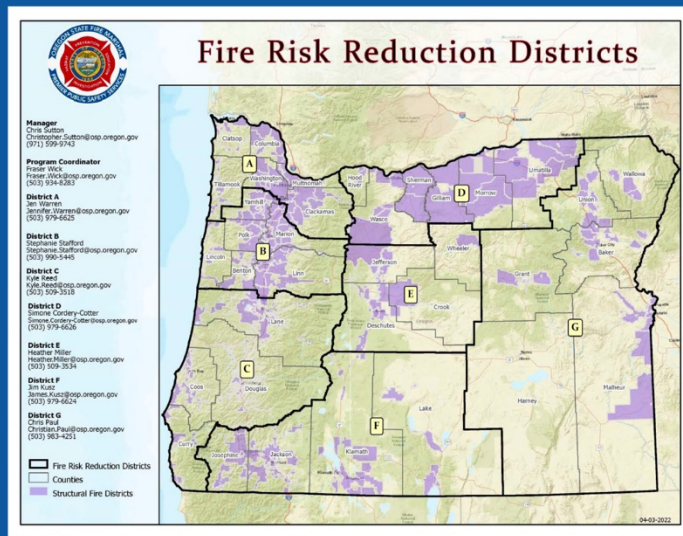


Districts

Heather Miller

District E:
*Serving Crook, Deschutes,
 Jefferson & Wheeler Counties*

**For more OSFM contacts and information, search "Fire Adapted Oregon" and view our Field Staffing Map*



Fire Adapted Oregon

- Initiative developed to address priorities in SB 762
- Integrated and strategic investment of resource to reduce fires and impact on the public
- Grounded in Community Risk Reduction Framework:

Emergency Response: Could adding or enhancing emergency services improve community safety?

Economic Incentives: Could economic incentives or penalties encourage safer behavior?

Education: Would altering Oregonian's knowledge, attitudes, and awareness related to their risks impact their behaviors?

Enforcement: Could passing, strengthening, or enforcing laws and rules impact risks?

Engineering: Are there technology solutions such as products or materials that could help reduce risk?





Fire Adapted Oregon

REDUCING RISK THROUGH PREPAREDNESS

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Fire Adapted Oregon is an initiative designed to prepare communities for fire by utilizing an integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce fires and impact to life, homes, and other infrastructure.



GROUNDING IN SCIENCE AND DATA

Fire Risk Reduction Specialists will work with local partners to create more fire-adapted communities in Oregon through solid science and research. These specialists will help communities improve structural resiliency to wildfire & enhance defensible space.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

The Fire Risk Reduction Specialists will serve as a resource for community planning for wildfires, educational events, financial opportunities and provide technical assistance to communities as they work to become more adapted to living with fire.



PROACTIVE APPROACH

Fire Adapted Oregon will help plan programs and actions that will increase the local community's ability to prevent, prepare, and mitigate wildfire.

Fire Adapted Oregon Website

Grant Opportunities

- Upcoming funding opportunities for local governments, fire agencies and non-profit organizations

Training Opportunities

- "Assessing Structure Ignition Potential" classes

Educational Webinars

- Home Ignition Zone
- Firewise USA program
- Financial Preparedness for Wildfires
- Home Ignition Research
- Evacuation Preparedness
- Fire Resistant Plants
- Lessons Learned from the Camp and Marshall Fires



Defensible Space Code Information



Upcoming Funding

If interested in upcoming grant opportunities, go to our grant web page:



Or Email:
OSFM.grants@osp.Oregon.gov



Defensible Space Local Government

WINTER '22/'23

Financial assistance to local governments for the administration of local preparedness efforts, administration, and enforcement of defensible space with the priority of certain vulnerable populations.

Grants will be available to counties (emergency managers), cities, and local fire agencies.

Defensible Space Public Assistance

2023

Planning for this grant program is currently underway and will focus on incentive programs for members of the public.



Questions?

Thank you!



Heather Miller
Fire Risk Reduction Specialist
Based in Bend

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