



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

**March 21, 2023 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
Meeting Minutes**

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	Bend / Sisters Fire
X	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Kyle Collins	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
X	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
	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
	Ben Duda for Gordon Foster	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
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	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	Corinne Heiner	Director	Deschutes County

**Public Present:**

Emily Curtis - Discover your Forest  
Gregory Byant - Deschutes River Woods  
Diane Holmes - Bridges at Shadow Glen HOA  
Dave Granger - Elkhigh woods HOA  
Maryanne Kramer - Elkhigh woods HOA  
Ross Huffman - ODF  
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters  
Robin Galloway - Lower Bridge Rangeland Fire Protection  
Suzanne Butterfield - Awbrey Park HOA  
Lars Santana - NRCS  
Cameron Scott - ODF  
Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Rod Jacobson - Pinebrook HOA  
Kim Durkee - Broken Top  
Frank Ammirata - Tillicum Village HOA  
Elie Gaines - Deschutes River Woods  
Joe Stutler - Deschutes County  
Boyd Turner - Eagle Crest Estates HOA  
Christine Buhl - ODF  
Kelly Esterbrook - Skyliners  
Heather Miller - Oregon State Fire Marshal  
Carolyn Dahlberg - Tollgate HOA  
Erin KilCullin - Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District  
Bill Boos -Bend Fire  
Kevin Robinson - FS Fire Prevention Specialist for the Ochoco and COFMS  
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA  
Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Bob Crain

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Corinne - Welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the agenda. She asked everyone to introduce themselves starting with the room introductions and told zoom attendees to please introduce themselves via the zoom meeting chat.

## **AGENDA**

Corinne - Covered the agenda for the meeting and gave updates and announcements which included:

- Oregon State Fire Marshal Grant for \$72,000
  - Applications will open soon
  - Money will be funded by June

- Still waiting to hear if Deschutes county and Oregon Living with Fire were successful in the OSFM Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant and we will update Project Wildfire as soon as we hear from them,
  
- Fire Free 2023
  - Bend Knot Landfill
    - May 6-21
  - La Pine, Sisters and Redmond Transfer Stations
    - June 3-17
  - Sunriver Compost
    - May 5-6
  - Jefferson County Box Canyon
    - May 13-14 and 20-21
  
- Updates for the Upper Deschutes River CWPP have started with the first meeting on 2/27/2023, please email Corinne for information. We are also going to be updating the East/West CWPP later in the summer..

Corinne then Introduced Christine Buhl, Forest Entomologist from Oregon Department of Forestry.

## **Meeting Topic - Christine Buhl - Forest Entomologist from ODF**

### **Central Oregon Forest Entomology**

Christine presented from Zoom and shared her presentation screen with the group. Christine introduced herself and explained her roles which include Forest Entomologist, in the forest health unit which includes invasive species specialist, aerial survey specialist and forest pathology.

The forest health unit is available to provide assistance in these topics to anyone, including private and agency.

Christine started with talking about insect benefits and those include:

- Base of many food chains (including humans)
- Natural enemy pest control
- Decomposition and nutrient cycling
- Selective removal of less vigorous trees
- Pollination services and other products such as silk, shellac, dyes and beeswax

Insects as pests can cause tree damage or mortality, typically these pests are taking advantage of trees that are already stressed. Such as:

- Pandora Moth (cyclical outbreaks)
  - Aren't typically treated because they collapse on their own

Insects tend to present a problem when there is a lack of natural controls such as mild winters, invasive species, and pesticide drift. They also cause a problem when there is a number of stressed trees from storms, fire, mechanical damage, and drought. Stressed trees release smells that these insects smell, and reduce the trees defenses.

Some of these stressors include:

- Drought
- Poor site quality
- Species not suited to the climate, location etc.
- Competition
- Old age/low vigor
- Mechanical injury, compaction
- Fire, ice, wind damage
- Prior vertebrate, insect, pathogen damage

Best management practices includes not treating the insect itself, but treating the predisposed factor and managing trees by establishing young trees well, not fertilizing, selecting species that are appropriate for the site and changing climate, and costs should be weighed with other factors on the site.

Drought is a common precursor to insect infestation. Oregon has been in a drought statewide for multiple years, especially east of the cascades. Bark beetles typically take advantage of drought stressed trees.

Wildfire and drought data is collected through aerial surveys, which shows that drought and wildfire and bark beetles are comparable in terms of damage in acres. Drought affects trees by killing fine roots, collapsing vascular tissues, causing trees to drop leaves which in turn stops/slow photosynthesis which then leads to reduced defenses. Drought can kill trees years after the initiation because they often cannot bounce back from the damage.

Bark beetles are a primary forest pest, they are very small, opportunistic, and have chemical signaling abilities from the smell of trees that already have their defenses down. They feed on phloem/cambium and introduce fungus to the tree. Some symptoms of bark beetles are pitch streams/droplets, pitch tubes, and brown frass. They also cause galleries on the inside of the bark, once they leave the tree they leave round exit holes. Typically they come in and kill a tree within one year and then leave the tree because they have used all the resources. Trees will turn red, and often get a stain in the wood from bark beetles introducing fungus.

Beetles to look out for:

- Doug-fir beetle
- Fir engraver
- Ips
- Western pine beetle
- Mountain pine beetle

Wood boring beetles which are typically not tree killers but they leave large exit holes

- Flatheaded fir borer can

- Emerald ash borer

Non-pest insects such as Red turpentine beetle, Sequoia pitch moth are common in Oregon. These pests don't typically kill trees.

Common post-fire insects include

- Firebugs - woodboring beetles that can detect heat and typically don't kill the tree but will lay their eggs under the bark of trees that are already dead.
- Horntail wasps drill into wood of dead or dying trees to lay eggs.
- Woodborers often chomp on dead or dying trees

Fire weakens a tree's ability to resist or tolerate insect attack, release stress volatiles that are attractive to insects, and when fire scars are left on trees they can become entry points for fungi which also weakens the tree, which predisposes the tree to insect attack. You will often see insect damage along a fire perimeter.

The typical fire-insect sequence looks like Fire > bark beetles > woodborer then decomposition. Reducing risk includes maintaining tree health and stand vigor before a fire. After a fire, salvage living but damaged trees, remove struggling trees, remove slash (Ips beetles like slash, remove within a year or two by burning or chipping), sanitize (not usually effective), and create "beetle breaks" or buffers.

Fires x Bees in central Oregon; fire leaves the soil exposed and native bees nest in the ground and like exposed soil, woody debris is also important for nests. Open canopies from fire also is beneficial because it brings in more sunlight. We want native bees and wasps in our forests because they create diversity as well as pollinate important native plants.

Christine then shared the ODF forest health webpage (Links will be included in email), and opened the discussion to questions.

You can email Christine with your forest entomology questions at [christine.j.buhl@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:christine.j.buhl@odf.oregon.gov)

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Kevin asked if anyone had any updates for the committee, starting with going around the room, then Zoom attendees please enter any updates in the chat.

Emily - Shared "The West Is Burning" film screening event, which will be held at the Sisters movie house on April 20th at 6:30 PM.

Robert - Will be having a roadside debris removal event in June throughout Deschutes River Woods.

Patti - Finishing up 2022 acreage treatments due to weather in Sunriver.

Robin - Three pines HOA is holding a dumpster debris removal event coming this spring. In June they will be focusing on a fire extinguisher training and evacuation tips.

Diane - Working on wildfire preparedness day event on Sat. May 6th where they will be clearing around their common buildings and having activities in the afternoon for kids and a community BBQ.

Bob - Curbside pickup of yard debris coming this summer and celebrating on May 6th with a community BBQ and talking about defensible space. He also shared that Safeco insurance shared a letter explaining Wildfire Defense Systems (WDS) program that homeowners with Safeco can take advantage of this benefit.

Kyle Collins - Updated that the County planning department is still working on the 2040 plan and you can check out the website by googling Deschutes 2040.

At this time the audio was experiencing technical difficulties and the remaining updates were inaudible. I apologize for the inconvenience.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.