



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

**May 16, 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
	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
	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	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
	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
	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	At Large
	Jessica Laberge	Business	At Large
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Corinne Heiner	Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Gregory Byant - Deschutes River Woods

Craig Letz - Tamarack Wildfire

Dean Richardson - UDRC

Amanda Rau - ODF

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:

- Fire Free events complete
 - Final numbers
 - 45,124 Cubic Yards of debris collected
- Fall Firewise grant funding deliverables are due to Kevin
 - include in email:
 - photos
 - descriptions of work
- Will create a form for deliverables for the Spring 2023 Grant coming soon
- OSFM \$500,000 grant award
 - County is managing the grant
 - Kevin and Corinne will attend the meeting July 11th and will inform the steering committee of any new information.
 - Sweat equity projects coming soon.
 - Underserved communities funding information to come.
 - Applying with ODF for the next round
 - Focus on underserved communities
 - Road right of ways treatment and evac route improvement

Corinne Introduced Amanda Rau, Oregon Department of Forestry, Prescribed Fire Coordinator

Meeting Topic - Prescribed Fire

Amanda Rau has been the Prescribed Fire Coordinator for ODF since senate bill 762 mandated the prescribed fire coordinator position. Amanda has worked in numerous locations in Oregon. She has done a lot of burning on the Deschutes and is an expert in prescribed fire.

Amanda started with an overview of the ecology of prescribed fire on the local landscape. Central Oregon is historically fire prone, with frequent fire return intervals. Fire has an important role, which is to maintain the open structure of the ponderosa pine forest. Fire suppression activities over the last 100 years have changed our region's forests. This has created additional challenges to the landscape such as drought and pathogens that have impacted the natural ecology of our ponderosa pine stands.

Fire is important for many different factors such as:

- Removing hazardous fuels
- Forest health
- Regeneration
- Wildlife habitat
- Community risk reduction
- Soil aggregation
- Decomposers and mycorrhizal

Fire intensity has to do with how the fire burns, and fire severity has to do with the impact fire brings to the environment. High intensity fire can create a high severity impact, but not always. Prescribed fire induces mortality in the forest, which can increase the forest vitality over time.

When burning below trees it is important to manage the intensity of the fire, so that you are able to control what you are sending fire into. There are many factors that go into planning a prescribed fire, such as the wind patterns, managing smoke, hazards, and values in the area, as well as predicting where the smoke will go. Many of these factors are determined by your goals with your burn. Many times these are already determined for you.

Preparation for a prescribed burn can include handline or cutting trees and fuel as well as plowing or using a line burner to contain the fire. A successful burn relies on good preparation and monitoring. It is always important to monitor the weather and to anticipate weather changes during a prescribed fire.

There are many techniques to lighting a prescribed fire, you can use a drip torch, a fusee, or very pistol to establish your fire. There are always crews and engines in the area, with hose lays and often porta tanks to help control the fire and prevent it from spreading.

It is rare for a prescribed fire to become a wildfire, but it can happen, which is why it is so important to do the proper preparation for your prescribed burn.

ROUNDTABLE

The meeting went over with questions so we did not hold a roundtable this month.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.