



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

**September 19, 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
X	Andy Meeuwsen	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
	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
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
X	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	Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator	Deschutes County

### **Public Present:**

Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Lars Santana - NRCS  
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA  
Diane Holmes - Bridges at Shadow Glen HOA  
Erin Kilcullen - DSWC  
Jeff Puller - SCSFD  
Kim Durkee - Broken Top HOA  
Janet Gandy - Widgi Creek HOA  
Lauren Street - COIC  
Heather Miller - OSFM  
Kevin Robinson - COFMS  
Jim Larsen - UDRC  
Emily Curtis - Discover your Forest  
Kelly Esterbrook - Skyline HOA  
Melissa Steele - Bend Fire  
Craig Letz - Tamarack Consulting  
Trevor Miller - COFMS  
Ray Miao - Woodside Ranch  
Lon Leneve - Awbrey Butte  
Nick Lelack - County Administrator

### **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 and told zoom attendees to please introduce themselves via the zoom meeting chat.

### **AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- OSFM grant Fall Fuels program and Sweaty equity programs are currently being planned. Fall Grant, August 20- September 20th application available
  - \$70,000 in Funding
  - \$25,000 from OSFM grant
  - \$45,000 from discretionary funding from County Commissioners
- Applying for CWDG grant funding to combine the 7 CWPP's into one. Will continue to keep PW updated.
  - Application is due Oct 31.
- Sweat equity program to come

- Funding available from OSFM grant
  - What would your community use?
    - Chipping
    - Debris removal
    - Bin rentals
  - Questions will be included in fall grant application for need
  - Used for defensible space
- Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition Subcommittee
    - Subcommittee to aid in information sharing among HOA's and individuals who are looking to become Firewise and need assistance and mentorship during the process.
    - Meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the County Road Department from 2-4pm.
- Currently Fire Risk map is in draft version, not made available to the public yet, but is being reviewed by county members and is taking feedback. There is a meeting with county members in Klamath Falls later this week. An update was given to the county commissioners about what the map will look like and how the process will work. A draft will later be issued to the public for commenting. Then the rollout will take place afterwards. Looking at possibly spring of 2024 when commenting for the public begins.
  - Fall Fire Free will not take place this fall due to limited space at the landfill and recycling sites, the landfill is at peak capacity with debris. This decision was made by Deschutes Recycling because they have run the ½ off event in the past and has not been run by Deschutes County. The spring Fire Free event in 2024 will continue as usual.
  - Another \$100,000 has been added to the BLM community assistance program. This is a grant for communities that are adjacent to BLM land, if you are interested please contact Kevin for more information.

Corinne Introduced Trevor Miller, Deputy Fire Staff - Fuels, with the US Forest Service.

## **MEETING TOPIC 1 - Forest Service Update**

Trevor Miller began his update by going over Sister's area projects. The Green Ridge project is in consultation, FS is working with Fish and Wildlife to revolve some issues, and are hopeful that a decision will be signed in the next few months so that work can begin. Another Project in this area is the Cougar Rock Project, which is in the process of consultation due to wolves with Fish and Wildlife. This project has been on the radar for many years. Black Butte Ranch WUI is a new initiative for fuels projects reaching further out to the West of Black Butte Ranch.

A large contract associated with roadside brushing includes 300 miles of road, this contract was recently finalized and this project will aid in containment lines in the future.

Bend Fort Rock has had a large number of projects including fuels driven projects to protect the South side of Bend. A plan is finalized and the first sale should be finalized by September 30, the Fish timber sale. There will be 3 more contracts with a timber component but all involves fuel

reduction. The Clone project area is beginning work in 2025, this is a service contract with a timber component to help pay for the work.

The boundary project is a WUI project from West Bend to the 41 RD going all the way past Sun River and includes a lot of maintenance work in areas that have previously been completed. There is a large mastication project and pile project in the Bend Fort Rock area as well.

Crescent surveyors are working on a large vegetation project, including 4000 acres of fuels treatments, total treatment will be about 12,000 acres, this project was awarded last week and is the first project of this size in a number of years. Fuels driven projects around Crescent lake, as well as Odell lake, with priority landscape funding. Looking at fiscal years 24-25.

Trevor then discussed fire season updates 4,500 acres of prescribed fire efforts were WUI driven. Sisters area includes about 800 acres, Bend Fort Rock included around 800 acres as well. West Bend was not burned this year, because of smoke potential impacts and opportunities that did arise had environmental setbacks.

Crescent had a small prescribed burn season, there was a partnership with ODF working in conjunction with Gilcrest State Forest for restoration benefit using prescribed fire.

In the Spring 2024 FS is looking at a 1000 acres prescribed burn project near Shevlin Park.

Fall burning is looking to begin around the first week of October, but is weather and fire season based.

The Pete's Lake fire has included multiple team transitions over 4 weeks, and is currently being managed by a type 1 team that is managing the Lookout and Table Mt Fire on the westside.

No large fires in the areas, lots of initial attack has kept fires from becoming large and threatening.

Trevor then took questions.

## **MEETING TOPIC 2 - Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition**

Corinne Introduced Lon Leneve - Co-Chair of Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition.

Lon started with an overview of the committee, which was started earlier this year. We meet every third Wednesday of the month at the County Road Department from 2-4 PM.

The mission is "To support Project Wildfire's mission by improving fire-adapted readiness one neighborhood at a time".

Membership currently includes 13 HOA's/communities and 10 agencies/advisors. Co-Chairs are Lon Leneve and Elizabeth Weide, Secretary is Robin Church and technical support with our Google Drive/Docs is run by Craig Renkert.

Part of the purpose of this subcommittee is to support and mentor communities who are looking to become FireWise. We have found that mentorship is one of the most crucial parts of communities accomplishing FireWise status, by utilizing Firewise coordinators from current certified communities by sharing the process, what works and what doesn't, and sharing resources with those who might need direction and mentorship to accomplish their FireWiseUSA status. Uniting people and communities who want to become FireWise has been recognized and a necessary part of Project Wildfire's mission and this Coalition. We have many different resources available as well as mentors and agency advisors who can aid in questions pertaining to FireWiseUSA.

These meetings are open to the public and are educational, following NFPA guidelines. The Coalition is sending out invitation letters to communities who are already certified FireWise and may be interested in joining. We know that Oregon is going to be coming out with a State code for homes and communities and we believe that this Coalition will be a great resource to jump start the process for many homeowners and communities to be prepared for this statewide code to be released.

Please feel free to join our meetings and to ask any questions about the subcommittee.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Melissa - Still in fire season at the time of this meeting, please be aware of debris burning regulations. National Fire Prevention week is coming up the second week of October. From 10-2 on Saturday October 14th Bend Fire is hosting their open house event at the North Station near the County Sheriff's department.

Craig - Tamarack is staying busy working with many communities on fuels mitigation work.

Diane - Clean up of the common area was completed recently and is working on tree removal.

Erin - Funding for DWSC from the Forest Service has been coming through to aid in projects.

Dean - UDRC is extending sponsorship to communities for fuels reduction work because they are a non-profit organization.

Lon - Awbrey Butte applied for the Fall grant program and is hoping to host a debris clean up and chipping program with funds if awarded.

Kevin - COFMS held a latino festival in September. Helping participate with the Bend Fire open house event. Doing work towards helping with unhoused communities and reducing fire risk within that population.

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