



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

**April 16, 2024 – 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
X	Heather Miller	Fire Rep 3	Oregon State Fire Marshal
X	Melissa Steele	Fire Rep 4	Bend Fire and Rescue
X	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Kyle Collins	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
		Private Forestry	
X	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Elizabeth Weide	HOA Rep	The Parks 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
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Sheldon Rhoden	BLM	Fire Management Specialist
	Shawn Jaca for Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	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
		Marketing	At Large
	Horace Ward	Business	At Large - Pacific Power
		Business	At Large
		Citizen Rep	At Large
X	Corinne Heiner, Director	Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Bill Boos - Bend Fire
Carolyn Dahlberg - Tollgate HOA
Craig Renkert - Deschutes Market Rd
Sherrie Moen - Widgi Creek
Natalie Kuntz - Forest Service
Austin Reimer - ODF
Ken Kennedy -
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Robert Pohly - Mountain High
Adrianna Weickhardt - Sisters Ranger District
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA
Greg Bryant - DRW
Emily Curtis - DYF

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:

- Grant Reporting
 - Reporting for the fall fuel reduction grant is due at the end of June.
 - The reporting form will be similar to the previous spring grant form.
 - Required information includes a narrative of work done, a budget, any matching funds provided, and documentation such as receipts and photos.
 - The reporting form will be distributed soon.
- Qualified Vendor Pool for 2024
 - The pool consists of 17 vendors, including some new ones.
 - The list will be distributed through Project Wildfire channels and neighborhood coalitions.
- Project Wildfire Annual Barbecue Event
 - 5-8pm on June 18th in Sunriver.
 - It's a recognition event for the community's hard work.
 - Finalized details will be shared through Project Wildfire
 - Please fill out the RSVP form, this event is catered and we need an accurate number for food. So please RSVP so you can eat!
 - Families are welcome!

- Lawn games
- There are still a few openings on the Project Wildfire Steering Committee, if you or anyone you may know is interested, please contact Corinne at Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org
- Spring Fire Free 2024 Dates
 - Negus Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 3-8
 - Mon - Sat
 - Southwest Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 3-8
 - Mon-Sat
 - Northwest Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 5-8
 - Wed - Sat

MEETING TOPIC 1 - Natalie Kuntz - Project Updates

Corinne introduced Natalie Kuntz, Assistant Fire Management Officer with the US Forest Service to present on current Forest Service projects and updates.

Natalie gave an update on the Newberry Spring burning and the West of Pine project. The West Bend smoke pilot project was mentioned, which focuses on studying smoke effects during spring and wildfire seasons. The burning plans for West Bend were discussed, with priority given to the Taylor Northwest area and the Big Eddie area. The continuity of the fuel breaks in West Bend was emphasized. The Taylor Northwest project is expected to start first, followed by the Big Eddie area, the Tumalo Trail, and the Welcome Station area. Natalie also discussed the Boundary Road Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, which aims to connect past treatments and create a better fuel break for the adjacent community.

Natalie also presented the Boundary Road Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, which aims to reduce hazardous fuels and promote resilience in the Wildland Urban Interface. The proposed actions include removing small diameter lodgepole trees, commercial harvesting of overstory lodgepole pine, mowing and mastication of small diameter trees and brush, pile burning, and under burning. The project area was shown on maps, highlighting past treatments and proposed treatments.

Natalie ended with questions and then we moved to a roundtable discussion.

ROUNDTABLE

Heather Miller - Workshops have been going really well, DRW had a big turnout of 38 people. There are also multiple Wildfire Preparedness fairs around Central Oregon, next ones in Madras on Sunday April 28th from 1-3 and La Pine on May 11 from 1-4. Central Oregon home and garden show will have home hardening and defensible space information with a short class on home hardening. If you are interested in a free home assessment The Oregon State Fire

Marshal will come out and assess your home/property for free, visit www.oregondefensiblespace.org to sign up.

Austin Reimer - ODF is hiring a forest resources manager in the Prineville unit, intent of that position is to add capacity. ODF and ODFW is hosting a training for commercial timber harvest, reach out to Austin for more information.

Greg Bryant - Heather held a workshop in DRW that went very well, thank you!

Emily Curtis - Working with the Deschutes National Forest on doing a public tour of prescribed fire units, she will send out an interest form for those who would like to attend. Probably 3-5 days notice, depending on conditions. The tours would be held in one hour time slots.

Melissa Steele - Fire extinguisher training and Firewise event will be held at the Bridges community. Nottingham square will hold a Firewise event as well in May. DRW residents have shown interest in becoming a Firewise community after holding their preparedness event.

Adrianna Weickhardt - Introducing Nate Price who is detailing her position for 128 days, he will be attending PW meetings over the next few months.

Robin Church - Summit west held a wildfire preparedness seminar with two sessions, she thanked all the partner agencies for their attendance at the seminar and their role in helping make it happen.

Corinne and Kevin thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 9:10 a.m.