



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

**July 16, 2024 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Meeting Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

X	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	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
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
	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
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
	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
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
		Marketing	At Large
X	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:

Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Todd Peplin - DSWCD
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters
Carrie Karl - City of Bend Emergency Management
Sherrie Moen - Widgi Creek HOA
Kim Durkee - Broken Top Community
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Shela Boynton - Nottingham Square
Robert Pohly - Mountain High
Bill Boos - Sunriver Fire Dept.
Rachelle Brookins - Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
Claudia McDonald - Rim Rock West
Boyd Turner - Eagle Crest Estates HOA
Craig Letz - Tamarack Consulting
Jeff Puller - SCSFD
Jeffrey Reaume - RECOA CWP
Jason Gibb - Forest Service
Greg Bryant - DRW

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:

- ODF, BLM and Deschutes National Forest have all moved their industrial precaution levels up.
 - No use of chainsaws from 1-8pm
 - FS precaution level to level 2
 - County is mimicking the ODF restriction.
- 2023 Fall Fuel Reduction Grant reports were due June 30th, if you have not submitted your report please reach out to Kevin as to why and please get those turned in as soon as possible. These reports are important for grant reporting purposes.
- Bin Rental program over the spring involved 19 communities totalling \$45,000. This program will continue next year, likely beginning the application process in January. All communities are invited to apply.
- Fall Fuel Reduction Grant will be opening September with \$125,000 in funding available.
- Draft map for wildfire hazard map will be open July 18th for public commenting from July 18- August 18. With three public hearings:

- July 31 at 10am
- July 31 at 2pm
- August 1st 6pm
- 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

MEETING TOPIC 1 - Horace Ward, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, Pacific Power

Horace Ward from Pacific Power presented on wildfire mitigation efforts. Horace has 15 years of emergency and disaster management responding to and managing multiple types of incidents. Horace's presentation focused on system hardening, and emergency response strategies, emergency management and wildfire mitigation efforts including Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and emergency de-energization policies.

Pacific Power serves approximately 2 million customers in 6 states with a service area of 143,000 square miles:

- Washington
- Oregon
 - 28 counties are served in Oregon
 - 92 cities
 - 641,619 customers
 - 3,044 transmission miles
- California
- Idaho
- Utah
- Wyoming

Wildfire mitigation:

There are three main themes that Pacific Power focuses on within wildfire mitigation:

1. Situational awareness
 - a. Risk Modeling (long-term)
 - b. Daily Risk Forecasting (short-term)
2. Operational Practices
3. System Hardening

Public Safety Power Shut Offs are a tool used by utilities in the west and soon to be across the US. These shut offs are utilized during high risk fire days, which are forecasted in advance through risk modeling. All active fires are being monitored within 10 miles of Pacific Power assets and are evaluated for potential to impact infrastructure. Annual inspections are conducted on lines and vegetation

Fire high consequence areas (FHCA) and areas of interest were shown to the group through a map of the PNW. This map can be seen in the slides within the meeting recording.

In 2020 Pacific Power added 23 weather stations to monitor weather conditions and model the impact to the electrical infrastructure. As of 2023, 272 weather stations have been installed.

Vegetation management planned in Central Oregon:

- Distribution: 150 miles
- Transmission: 260 miles

Below is a before and after photo of the vegetation management on transmission right of ways.



Weather risk categorizations are as follows:

- Green
 - Few to no outages expected; meteorology expects at least a chance for the corresponding weather feature; however, the threat is minimal and very isolated or unlikely.
- Yellow
 - Scattered system impacts; meteorology believes the corresponding weather threat could be significant enough that heightened situational awareness is justified.
- Orange
 - Widespread system impacts; meteorology perceives the corresponding weather threat as severe and widespread.
- Red
 - Widespread outages with extended restoration; meteorology expects a prolonged or extremely severe weather event.

Public safety power shut off (PSPS) - "PSPS watch" notifications are sent out to customers when public safety circumstances are such that enhanced situational monitoring is required and a de-energization event is possible to occur.

PSPS warnings are sent out when public safety circumstances are such that a de-energization event will occur.

PSPS execution is during an event when the public safety circumstances are such that de-energization actions are in progress.

An emergency de-energization happens when:

- An active wildfire moves close enough to threaten our power equipment, we monitor the fire closely to evaluate its potential spread and impacts to our systems.
- If the fire is moving too close to our equipment, we will conduct an emergency de-energization of our power lines. This keeps first responders safe as they fight the fire and helps prevent catastrophic wildfire conditions.

More details and a full recording of this meeting can be found at the link below on the Project Wildfire Youtube channel. Meeting recording link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgqfQgnxLDc>

ROUNDTABLE

David Mormon - Red Cross has been very active the last few weeks staffing shelters and temporary evacuation points throughout central and eastern Oregon.

Todd Peplin - The Deschutes SWCD is developing a program for after fire restoration activities such as seeding and erosion control measures. This will be focused on ag lands using our small grant program.

Jason Gibb - Central Oregon is in the 95-97th percentile of the energy release component. There are many large active fires in Oregon. Lightning is due to come in today and tonight.

Dean Richardson - UDRC has a lot of interest this year in their fire mitigation and defensible space programs. Reports that more people seem to be becoming more aware of home hardening practices. Fall reimbursement program was opened up and received 20 applicants within the first few hours. Dean stated they will likely max out their funding for the program this year.

Greg Bryant - Dumpsters have collected about 400 cubic yards of waste. 25 homes that would like their defensible space around their homes worked on.

Nathan Garibay - Scoping out grant opportunities, one is for mitigation for evacuations. Rescoping an existing grant from pre-covid to adapt an existing online self assessment program.

Melissa Steele - Bend fire is getting a lot of assessment requests. Tomorrow July 17th from 6-7 there is an event at Worthy Brewing hosted by Dave Howe focusing on Bend's fire history.

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