



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

**August 20, 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
X	Heather Miller	Fire Rep 3	Oregon State Fire Marshal
	Melissa Steele	Fire Rep 4	Bend Fire and Rescue
X	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
X	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
X	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
	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:**

Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Carolyn Dahlberg - Tollgate HOA  
Shela Boynton - Nottingham Square  
Robert Pohly - Mountain High  
Kim Durkee - Broken Top Community  
Robert Newey - US Forest Service  
Kevin Robinson - COFMS  
Lauren Street - COIC  
Craig Renkert - Deschutes Market Road  
Nick Lelack - Deschutes County Administrator  
Claudia McDonald - Rim Rock West  
Dave Breuninger - Elkai Woods HOA  
Megan - Central Oregon Tree Experts  
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters  
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Carrie Karl - City of Bend Emergency Management  
Christina Maier - Tollgate HOA  
Ellie Gaines - DRW  
Gabe Couch, Tetherow OA  
Greg Bryant - DRW  
Scott Collins - Junipine HOA  
Kristan Collins - Junipine HOA

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

- 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.
- The Bin Rental program over 2024 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. Applications will be accepted Sept. 1-30th.
  - Press release to come
  - Awards will range from approx. \$1,000-\$5,000
  - If intention is to use for bin rentals it is advised that you wait for the January application for the Bin Rental program, which will return in 2025. It is preferred to use this grant funding for other home hardening or fuel reduction projects.
- 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](mailto:Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org)

## **MEETING TOPIC 1 - Lauren Street, Forest Fuels Project Planner, COIC**

Corinne introduced Lauren Street from COIC.

Lauren began her presentation explaining the Heart of Oregon Corps and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council stats and information.

The Heart of Oregon Corps and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council partnered in 2022 to form the Central Oregon Wildfire Workforce Partnership, or COWWP, under the Oregon Conservation Corps funding opportunity. Continued support has come from the Oregon Department of Forestry Small Forestland Grant and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Community Wildfire Defence Grant. The program is all grant funded and is always looking for more funding opportunities.

COIC has youth crews geared towards workforce development, this partnership was created and originally funded through SB762, through the higher education coordinating commission through the Oregon Conservation Corp. Training youth how to do fuels reduction throughout their community on both public and private property.

Young adult crews perform fuels reduction work on both private and public property within Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook Counties. Work has been prioritized to underserved and low-income communities. Projects ranging from tree thinning, chipping, brush removal, and ladder fuels reduction in natural areas to create defensible space around homes, neighborhoods and critical infrastructure. Through the COWWP program 114 youth have received certifications in Entry Level Wildland Firefighter courses in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service in S-130, S-190, L-180, ICS-100 and I-700 certifications. Other certifications include S-212 (chainsaw), HIZ (home ignition zone) training in partnership with the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Some program stats include:

- 562.92 acres treated
- 298 structure defensible spaces improved
- 435 youth participants

- 26,571.25 youth hours served (in two years)
  - Program goal is geared towards workforce development for youth.
  - Red card training is nationally recognized.
  - Up to half of those trained will go on to fight wildland fire that summer.

There are 8 target areas and outreach is centered around the social vulnerability layer on Oregon Explorer. Lauren works one on one with property owners and they approve the scope of work. Depending on the area for work there is often a wait list. Although the crews are able to get to waitlisters relatively quickly. All work done by the Heart of Oregon and COIC crews is free of charge. Crew members are paid for their work through the grant funding which funds the program.

If you are looking to get some fuel reduction work through The Heart of Oregon or COIC crews you can inquire with Lauren Street at [lstreet@coic.org](mailto:lstreet@coic.org).

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=0pbfrlal\\_hU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pbfrlal_hU)

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Heather Miller - OSFM is hosting a Home Protections Strategies Class Saturday August 24th at the La Pine Activity Center at 8AM - Noon. Will be adding more of the home assessment component. Class is free and is posted in the chat with sign up information.

Kevin Robinson - COFMS Fire condition update has reduced fire danger to high with lower temps. Fire restrictions remain at stage 2.

Megan - Central Oregon Tree Experts is getting a lot of calls about homeowners being dropped from their insurance policies due to high fire risk.

Kyle Collins - Newest version of wildfire hazard map has been released and is now closed for public comment. Deschutes County submitted comments and it is expected to see the final version released in October.

Dean Richardson - UDRC has two defensible space programs running, one of which is an incentive program that reimburses the first \$500 for homeowners creating defensible space around their homes. There has been a high volume of applicants and a high need for fuel reduction work in south Deschutes County.

Commissioner Patti Adair - Applied for a Federal grant geared towards water and clean up in south County. Is attending a meeting this afternoon outlining transient population issues.

Greg Bryant - DRW currently has 3 dumpsters out for the next 5-6 weeks. Work will begin with a contractor to work on defensible space after fire season restrictions lower.

David Mormon - Red Cross has many sheltering responsibilities for wildfire evacuees and is bringing in extra resources to respond to long term sheltering needs.

Corinne Heiner - Commissioner Phil Chang hosted an Insurance Industry roundtable meeting on 8/12/24 with State Senator Jeff Golden and will be writing up meeting notes from that discussion and sharing those through Project Wildfire.

Andy Meeuwsen - Commented on the Insurance roundtable stating that the insurance industry is looking for solutions for homeowners. Thanked the Commissioner Phil Chang for hosting.

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