



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

**September 17, 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
	Melissa Steele	Fire Rep 4	Bend Fire and Rescue
	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
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
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
		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:**

Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Carolyn Dahlberg - Tollgate HOA  
Shela Boynton - Nottingham Square  
Robert Pohly - Mountain High  
Kim Durkee - Broken Top Community  
Kevin Robinson - COFMS  
Lauren Street - COIC  
Dave Breuninger - Elkai Woods HOA  
Megan Fummerton - Central Oregon Tree Experts  
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters  
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Christina Maier - Tollgate HOA  
Greg Bryant - DRW  
Jodie Barram - Oregon Living with Fire  
Jeffrey Reaume - RECOA CWP  
Tony Prior - SCSFD  
Ray Miao - Woodside Ranch HOA  
Steven Lord - SCSFD  
Bill Boos - Sunriver Fire Dept.  
Todd Peplin - DSWCD  
Jenna Dielbel - OSU Extension  
Boyd Turner - Eagle Crest Estates HOA  
Erin Kilcullen - DSWCD  
Sherri Moen - Widgi Creek HOA  
Jeff Puller - SCSFD  
Caroline Dahlberg - Tollgate 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:

- The Bin Rental program for Spring 2024 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 is open right now through September 30th with \$125,000 in funding available.
  - Grant application link is on the Deschutes County Natural Resource Website
    - <https://www.deschutes.org/forester/page/2024-fall-fuel-reduction-grant-program>
  - 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.
- Deschutes County Natural Resource Department is hiring a Grants Coordinator
  - Application can be found on the Deschutes County webpage
  - Open until September 22nd
- UDR CWPP final meeting
  - November 4th, 10 AM at the Road Department
  - Contact Corinne if interested in attending and for more information
- East-West CWPP meeting 2
  - November 25th, 10 AM at the Road Department
  - Contact Corinne if interested in attending and for more information
  
- 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 - Jenna Diebel, OSU Extension Forester**

Corinne introduced Jenna Diebel, OSU Extension Forester.

Jenna introduced herself as the new Central Oregon Extension Forester, covering Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson counties, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She is based in Redmond and has been in the role for six months. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Jenna has long been passionate about the Pacific Northwest. She attended Oregon State University (OSU) for both undergraduate and graduate studies in natural resources. Jenna has extensive experience with the Forest Service, working in various capacities including Wilderness Ranger and data technician. She has also worked as a bartender, taught at OSU Cascades, and enjoys outdoor activities and crafting.

Jenna emphasized the importance of having an Extension Forester in the community and outlined her goals for the presentation. Extension services were established through three key legislative acts: Morrill Act (1862), Hatch Act, and Smith-Lever Act. Extension services act as a bridge between public and university research, providing access to top-tier forestry knowledge. The Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) Extension Program was established in the 1960s and has evolved to include a holistic approach to forestry.

Responsibilities of an Extension Forester include:

- **Context and Relationship Building:** Engaging with the community to understand their unique forestry needs.

- **Local Landowner Support:** Providing advice on forest health, wildfire resilience, and other forestry-related issues.
- **Committee Involvement:** Serving as an educational advisor on various committees and collaboratives.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with agencies, tribes, and landowners on projects and grant writing.
- **Research:** Conducting local research to support landowner needs.
- **Educational Programs:** Facilitating forestry and natural resource-related educational programs.

Common issues Jenna deals with include tree mortality, including reasons such as hydraulic failure and various diseases. She discussed potential topics such as Silviculture, bark beetle management, Western Juniper management, wildfire and forest health resiliency, and more.

Jenna's presentation focused on topics including:

- **Historical Fire Systems:** Jenna explained how fire historically maintained forest health and structure.
- **Fire Suppression Effects:** Discussed the negative impacts of fire suppression, leading to denser forests and increased fire risk.
- **Balancing Fuels Reduction and Wildlife Habitat:** Emphasized the importance of maintaining complexity in forest management to support biodiversity.
- **Habitat Elements:** Detailed various elements such as snags, logs, legacy trees, openings, patches, piles, and shrubs that contribute to a healthy forest ecosystem.
- **Defensible Space vs. Landscape Resilience:** Differentiated between managing immediate home surroundings and broader forest landscapes.

More details and a full recording of this meeting can be found at the links below on the Project Wildfire Youtube channel and on the Project Wildfire website at <https://projectwildfire.org/steering-committee-meeting-minutes/>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFh196iLE6M>

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Todd Peplin - Is working with groups to organize education on thinning. DSWC has small grants available for landowners affected by the fires for restoration efforts for post fire.

Kevin Robinson - Nearing the end of fire season with slightly cooler temperatures, which has helped agencies get closer to containment. There is discussion on lowering fire risk levels.

Megan Fummerton - Central Oregon Tree Experts is working with homeowners on their 100 feet defensible space, staying busy during the winter and would like to connect with those who need work, and with COIC.

Bob - Working on defensible space in Widgi Creek with a small grant from the rural fire protection district.

Jeff Puller - Staying very busy, almost daily with home assessments all summer. Working with 3 to 4 communities who are working towards becoming Firewise.

Lauren Street - COIC and The Heart of Oregon recently changed their website to request fuels reduction work through their free program from youth crews. Requests will be checked weekly and smooth out the process of prioritizing fuels reduction work. During the winter there are full time crews working on projects.

Erin Kilcullen - DSWC is proposing a tax levy on the November ballot for \$0.06 to use the funds for projects on the ground. Erin is happy to provide more information if you have any questions.

Commissioner Adair - Thanked Craig Letz for assessing her Junipers and is moving forward with removal of some.

Greg Bryant - DRW has 3 dumpsters out, they get filled up and dumped every week, and is planning on keeping that going for the next two months.

Ray Miao - ODF offered an opportunity to find small grants if 100 people signed up for assessments. 138 Homeowners have now signed up.

Patti Gentiluomo - Sunriver is continuing fuels reduction & tree thinning on commons, at the south end of the community. We are also performing private property wildfire fuel assessments and developing additional outreach/public education materials.

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