



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

November 19, 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
X	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 Meeuwssen	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
X	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
		Marketing	At Large
	Jacquelyn Nerski for Horace Ward	Business	At Large - Pacific Power
	Aaron Everett	Business	At Large - Beacon Rock Consultants
		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
Robert Pohly - Mountain High
Megan Fummerton - Central Oregon Tree Experts
Christina Maier - Tollgate HOA
Greg Bryant - DRW
Jeffrey Reaume - RECOA CWP
Ray Miao - Woodside Ranch HOA
Megan Tuck - COIC
Sherri Moen - Widgi Creek HOA
Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA
Erik Kropp - Deschutes County
Sonja von Ehrenstein - Wild River HOA
Craig Letz - Tamarack Consulting
Alison Green - OSFM
Kevin Robinson - COFMS
Jodie Barram - OLWF
Dave Breuninger - Elkai Woods HOA
Kim Durkee - Broken Top Community
Jim Larsen - UDRC
Bob Leichti - Widgi Creek
Claudia McDonald - Rim Rock West
Boyd Turner - Eagle Crest Estates HOA
Kathy Turner - Eagle Crest Estates HOA
Peter Walker - University of Oregon
Randy - Lane Knolls Estates
Joe Mauti - Bend Park and Recreation District
Sarah - Bend Park and Recreation District
Bill Boos - Sunriver Fire Dept.
Patti McCormick -

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

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

- 29 awards have been processed, with around a half a dozen still needing to be signed for the Fall Fuel Reduction Grant.
- Bin Rental program will continue in 2025 and there will be an official application releasing around mid January.
- Monday November 25th is the East-West CWPP meeting at 10AM at the Road Department.
 - Please email Corinne for more information at Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org.
- 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 - Alison Green -

Corinne introduced Alison Green, Defensible Space Coordinator with The Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Alison, the defensible space coordinator for the Oregon State Fire Marshal, provided an in-depth overview of the new defensible space code and its implications for wildfire risk management in Oregon. She began by introducing the context of the code, which emerged from Senate Bill 762 passed in 2021, aimed at enhancing fire-adapted communities following severe fire seasons. This legislation granted the Oregon State Fire Marshal new authorities, including the development of a defensible space program and the adoption of a code applicable to certain high-risk areas.

Alison explained that the defensible space code would establish minimum standards for properties identified as high hazard or within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The code mandates a defensible space of 50 feet around structures, an increase from the traditional 30 feet, and emphasizes the importance of tree spacing and vegetation management. She clarified that the code is not intended to be overly prescriptive but serves as a baseline standard for safety.

A significant aspect of her presentation focused on the differences between the new code and existing Firewise standards, which are based on NFPA codes. The new code will utilize specific chapters from the International Code Council (ICC) and will incorporate best management practices tailored to various ecosystems. Alison highlighted the importance of flexibility in applying these standards, particularly in diverse ecological contexts, and mentioned the inclusion of shaded fuel breaks as a recommended practice.

Alison also addressed the ongoing development of a hazard map that will guide the implementation of the code. This map, which is still in the feedback and revision stage, will categorize areas based on their wildfire risk. Once finalized, the map will undergo a review every five years to ensure it reflects current conditions and risks.

The presentation included a discussion on enforcement of the new code, which will primarily fall to the Oregon State Fire Marshal and local fire service partners. Alison emphasized that enforcement would be balanced with education, aiming to promote compliance rather than punitive measures. She acknowledged the challenges of enforcing standards on private property and the need for cooperation from property owners.

Throughout her presentation, Alison encouraged open dialogue and questions, addressing concerns about tree spacing, vegetation management, and the implications for homeowners and insurance providers. She reassured attendees that the code would allow for local adaptations and best practices to accommodate specific community needs.

In conclusion, Alison's presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the new defensible space code, its development, and its intended impact on wildfire risk management in Oregon. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and education in implementing these standards effectively.

The recorded meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIM7BKjbB30&t=184s>

ROUNDTABLE

Robin Church - The Summit West neighborhood district board agreed to a targeted outreach initiative to connect with the high hazard neighborhoods to encourage becoming Firewise.

Sarah - Bend Park and Rec is doing fuel reduction work and strengthening their relationship with Melissa Steele

Megan Femmerton - Tree Experts continue work through the winter and are available for anyone who would like to get fuel work completed.

Melissa Steele - Baker Road area is going to begin fuel reduction work and is going over bids for contractors.

Greg Bryant - Over 21 weeks more than 1200 cubic yards of debris were collected and disposed of with bin rentals in DRW. Roadside cleanup is continuing over the next few weeks.

Jodie Barram - OLWF is planning their 2025 program of work and will align with Project Wildfire partners.

Megan Tuck - Is going to be working with Lauren Street on the COIC workforce program. Please contact COIC for fuel reduction work.

Dean Richardson - UDRC has two defensible space programs that have been running for over two years. This year UDRC has maxed out their funds for these programs, and are currently seeking more funding.

Ray Miao - There has been a fire break created along the canal around Woodside Ranch for pipeline work.

Christina Maier - A property in Tollgate just received the first IBHS Prepared Wildfire Home certification in the state of Oregon. Process went very smoothly, and took 2 weeks, from start to finish.

Corinne Heiner - PW Steering Committee member meeting will be held following the February 18th PW meeting. If you hold a seat on the Steering Committee please plan to attend if possible. The meeting will be held in the Allen room.

Kevin Moriarty - There is no December PW meeting.

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