

**Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting
October 15, 2010
RRFD**

Meeting Notes

**Attendees: Jenny Zeltvay, Sandy Shaffer, Robert Shoemaker, Ali True
John O'Conner, Neil Benson, Tim Gonzales, & Teresa Burkhart**

Next O&E Meeting: November 19, 2010 9-11AM, Rogue River FD

Note- O&E Meetings will be held at Rogue River FD through December

**RVFP Co-op Annual Planning Meeting: November 10, 2010 10-12PM, Hillcrest
Station, Grants Pass**

IV Fire Plan Update

Illinois Valley Fire received a Title III grant to fund a rewrite of the fire plan and hold several public meetings. These meetings will discuss the improvements made over the last five years, and will solicit community input on future directions.

Vulnerable Populations-Social Services Agency Employee Training to recognize Defensible Space

John O'Connor held a training session for Jackson and Josephine county Social Services and caseworker supervisors. The training covered recognizing the need for defensible space work, and information was also given on vulnerable population grants.

A list was compiled of potential recipients of the VP grant for Jackson County. Grants for VP are not available in Josephine County at this time.

An additional class will be held will be held November 15, at the Criminal Justice Dept from 10am-1pm for foster providers and direct care staff. The training will cover home fire safety and defensible space recognition.

Public Surveys

The committee decided to use the Research Center at Southern Oregon University to do the public survey mailings and data entry. The Research Center has their own P O Box and discounted bulk mail rates. It was estimated that we would only save \$800-\$1,000 by going through SOU but it will save the hassle of having to hire someone for data entry. The return envelopes will include both SOU and RVFP Co-op names with the Research Center address.

Surveys will be conducted in five different communities, Greensprings, both sides of Applegate Valley, Ashland fire hazard area, Wolf Cr. and Seven Basins. Jenny Zeltvay will reimburse \$7000 for the Josephine Co side of Applegate Valley. Each area needs to decide what types of reports they want, (i.e. sorted by zip code, number of acres, or based on first six demographic questions). Greensprings is the only area that will not be including demographic questions in their survey.

A joint press release and a letter will be sent out prior to the surveys, to announce their future arrival. It was also suggested to do an announcement in the Firebrand as well as the RVFP Co-op website. It is probable that the surveys will be sent out after the holiday season.

RVFP Co-op webpage

Ali would like to partner with ODF to create a Firewise tip of the day/week, to be posted on both Ashland Fire and RVFP Co-op web pages. The tips would be collected in a data base that would self automate daily or weekly, and would be coordinated with the season. Ali has a list of Firewise tips already compiled. Teresa will research what software is needed to achieve automatic updates.

A hit counter will be added to the Co-op home page to track how many times the website is accessed.

If you have any suggestions for the website, please contact Teresa, <mailto:tburkhart@odf.state.or.us>.

Prevention Team

John has recruited a couple of volunteers in Jo Co with an additional three in Ja Co. Ideally the team should be used at least once or twice a month to keep the volunteers engaged. If anyone has an event that the team could participate in please notify John, <mailto:jpocconor@odf.state.or.us>. John will be looking into the possibility of partnering with local nurseries in the spring and using the volunteers to staff these events.

Firebrand

The format of the Firebrand has changed to 12 page tabloid, to provide a more cost effective print. Committee members suggested using wildfire hazard zone mailing lists as opposed to SB-360, to provide more coverage.

The next Firebrand should be published soon. Neil recommended advertising the IV fire plan community meetings in this edition if the timing works out.

Seven Basins

Seven Basins has their Policy Makers Tour going on Oct 22. They will be showing county, state and federal officials what has been done in the way of watershed enhancement, and the benefits of fuel reduction.

Shady Cove Firewise

Assessments have been completed for two neighborhoods in Shady Cove and they are in the midst of completing an application for recognition with Firewise Communities USA.

Shady Cove Firewise will be receiving a grant to do roadside treatment for Old Ferry road, providing safer access and egress.

Ashland Firewise/AFR

October 18, Ashland Fire will be approaching the city council for approval to establish the Firewise Commission.

Ashland is waiting for the funds to appear but the groundwork has been established for the defensible space rebate program, with many people interested. Ali is working on a Firewise demo house using the city parks building located in Lithia Park. Treatment will include replacing the roof, and vegetation reduction.

Ashland will be using a vegetative management model as opposed to an ordinance due to lack of staffing for enforcement.

There has been some confusion regarding the wildfire evacuation route signs, many people driving by read it as "wildlife" instead of "wildfire", there was discussion about including flames or changing the wording on future signs.

Wolf Creek

This is Wolf Creek's second year in evacuation planning. Wolf Creek Fire Department has hired locals to conduct their evacuation survey.

John, with the help of a couple of volunteers will be using the fire safety house trailer at Wolf Creek Fire Station Anniversary on October 22.

Animal Evacuation

Lin prepared a cover letter to include with the "Saving the Whole Family" brochure, for Sandy to distribute to a Land Steward class. The cover letter gives Lin's contact information and describes what she does. Sandy and others agreed that the letter

should be available to hand out with the brochures to generate more community interest in animal evacuation planning.

Paula Trudeau, Shady Cove Firewise, is interested in developing an animal evacuation plan with Lin.

Good of the Order

John- Illinois Valley Fire Department is getting a defensible space display that will rotate throughout the stations to get more exposure. John is also looking into ordering an additional display to be used in Josephine County.

Jenny-September 28, Frontier Communications, a telephone service provider shut down for approximately 24 hours in the Illinois Valley. During this time residents were unable to landline 911, emergency services. HAMM radio operators were deployed at the station on Caves Highway to help with the communication problem. A public meeting will be held at 6:30pm, October 27th at the station on Caves Highway to discuss emergency planning for future incidents.

Sandy-The Fuels/Risk Committee has applied for \$50,000 of a Western States Fire Managers grant to fund the designing a defensible space maintenance handout. The Fuels/Risk Committee and O&E will work together on the publication. Sandy feels information and pictures should be provided for landscape tree mitigation, Ali will share data she has collected on this subject.

Sandy- BLM will be doing some under burning in the Missouri Flat area next year, Jack Shipley hopes to have his property done at the same time. Sandy suggested taking photos and making a video to give the public an understanding of how and why we do prescribed burning.

Tim-BLM fall burning program has been a success with a total of 150 acres burned. Approximately 150 residents were notified of the prescribed burning with only about 20 residents unhappy about the smoke. Hand piles will be burned after Jo Co gets adequate rain.

Tim's position will sunset in 11 mos.

A Forestry education Class was held for 210 students at South Middle School in Grants Pass. The class ran for three days and discussed the benefits of fire in the forest.

Robert- Mary Ceglia participated in a fire education program for Boy Scouts. Roughly 50 scouts attended to receive fire extinguisher training, and learn about fire suppression and prescribed burning.

Applegate FS will be doing under burns next spring. An ARAA grant will fund contract crews and agency personnel to burn about 4,000 acres of piles.

AFR have about 400 acres in the Ashland Watershed that will be burned.

Neil- Volunteers worked on the Greenway near Ashland, removing blackberries and root wads.

Teresa-Two wildfire preparedness community meetings will be planned in the Applegate Valley after harvest season is over, as they will be held at local vineyards.

Teresa is meeting with Jenna Stanke October 21, to discuss involving high school students in a greenway fuel reduction project. The project would be used to educate the students on how fuels relate to fire behavior.