

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Integrated Fire Plans  
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting  
September 17, 2010  
ODF, Central Point**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees: Jenny Zeltvay, Sandy Shaffer, Brian Pike, Gail Grogan-Perotti, John O'Connor, Lin Bernhardt, Neil Benson, Tim Gonzales, Ashley DuBrey, & Teresa Burkhart**

**Next O&E Meeting: Oct 15, 2010, 9-11AM, Rogue River FD**

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

**Next RVFP Co-op Meeting is Oct 13, 2010, JCFD #3, White City**

**Grant Funded Fuels Treatment Maintenance Policy**

The JCIFP Risk/Fuels Committee convened and decided not to fund maintenance work on defensible space with the existing grants. Most of the ARA grants don't include maintenance money. The Committee will be applying for grants that will allow for maintenance.

Sandy Shaffer shared the following guidelines set by the Risk/Fuels committee for allocating maintenance funds.

**Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan**

**Risk/Fuels Committee**

**Position Paper on Fuel Reduction Grant Awarding & Management**

Over the past decade, fire agencies, departments and communities in Jackson County have completed a considerable amount of hazardous fuels reduction work, in an effort to make our region more fire safe.

The addition of the Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan has allowed these efforts to be more strategic, efficient and effective. It has also allowed us to obtain significant grant funding to increase our treated acreage, as well as to implement a strong, consistently applied public education campaign to reduce wildfire risk.

Federal fuels funding is diminishing, as are County payments in lieu of taxes, and both sources of grant funding for fuel reduction will most likely disappear within the next few years.

Given these diminishing funding sources, the JaCIFP Fuels/Risk Committee recognizes that increasing private property owner responsibility for preparing their homes and property to survive a wildfire needs to be our top priority. Under the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, private rural landowners are required to maintain a defensible space around their home and along their access routes. We therefore set the following guidelines for allotting fuel reduction grant dollars in the future:

- Our vulnerable populations can always receive assistance to create and/or maintain their defensible space.
- Defensible space work: A cost-share grant is available once for each homeowner to create their defensible space. In the case of a new homeowner of an existing property, cost-share grants are available once to either create or maintain that property's defensible space. In general, maintenance of a defensible space is the homeowner's personal responsibility, and does not qualify for financial grant assistance.

Out-acres on rural forested WUI property: When grant dollars are available, WUI homeowners may be eligible for a cost-share grant to thin hazardous fuels on their out-acres (those not included within the defensible space), if they have already created a defensible space/access, and if the location is deemed to be strategic. Cost-share grants for the maintenance of already-thinned out-acres will be assessed by this Committee, based upon the following criteria: a) whether the location is identified as within one of the top priority watersheds in the most recent version of the JaCIFP's Risk Assessment; b) whether multiple adjacent landowners are applying to do the work at the same time so that a larger impact is realized; and, c) whether the location of the acres to be treated is considered strategic by either ODF or the local Fire District for reducing fire spread.

### **Jackson County Land Use Planning**

A hearing on Wildfire Hazard Zoning is scheduled for Sept 22, to discuss changes in the county land use planning ordinances.

Jenna Stanke redrew lines to extend the boundaries of the wildfire hazard land use planning exemptions.

Jim Wolf and Hugh Holden, Fire Dist#3, are attempting to work with the planners to split the ordinance changes from the map changes. Splitting the two would allow the map to be looked at closer to decide where the ordinances should or shouldn't apply.

District 6 sent a letter to the county against the map changes.

### **Josephine County Evacuation Planning**

The Emergency Management Board has the funds to hire an individual to replicate the work done in Wolf Creek, county wide.

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

John O'Conner is taking the lead to train Social Service employees, caseworkers that visit clients at their homes.

The training will be approximately 15 minutes and will instruct the caseworkers how to identify if their clients need help with creating a defensible space and how to get an ODF assistance grant.

## **Public Surveys**

A test survey was conducted at Crater High School. As extra credit, 30 students received surveys to be completed by their parents. The test survey proved successful, and it was concluded that the instructions were clear and understood.

There was discussion on hiring a contractor to set up public surveys for individual communities throughout Jackson and Josephine counties. Research is being done to estimate how much it would cost.

## **RVFP Co-op webpage**

Email Teresa Burkhardt, ([tburkhart@odf.state.or.us](mailto:tburkhart@odf.state.or.us)) with information on events you would like advertised on the website.

Neil suggested using the co-op website at community meetings to get the public familiar with navigating through the site.

Teresa will be finding a way to track the number of hits the website gets to monitor effectiveness.

## **Prevention Team**

The volunteers will be helping with two upcoming events in Josephine County. Oct, 9<sup>th</sup> – Grants Pass Fire and Police Open House, and Oct, 22<sup>nd</sup> the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Wolf Creek Fire Station.

At least four volunteers will be attending the Lowes Safety Saturday event, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.

John has been designing ads for community papers in Josephine County. The ads cover creating a defensible space, firebrand protection, and coverage of upcoming Outreach & Education events.

John is available to make fliers for specific fire prevention messages upon request.

## **FIREBRAND**

Due to technical difficulties, the latest Firebrand should be sent out the last week of September.

The format of the Firebrand will be changed to a 12 page tabloid. This will make it more economical, allowing for more distribution. Two to three hundred extra copies will be ordered.

There was discussion that some of the residents on the SB-360 mailing list are not receiving copies of the Firebrand. Ashley is unsure of how to track who isn't getting them.

As a reminder, Firebrand issues are posted to the RVFP Co-op website for viewing.

### **Seven Basins**

Seven Basins is working with Lin Bernhardt to come up with an animal evacuation plan in the watershed.

There are plans to come out with a fire tabloid paper this winter.

The Save Our Salmon event, Oct, 9<sup>th</sup>, Valley of the Rogue State Park, will have watershed health information and activities.

### **Ashland Firewise & Forest Resiliency Project (AFR)**

Ashland is attempting to get a city wide Firewise Board, upon city manager approval.

This would be a commission type board that would meet the need of longevity.

The Blackstone Audio sale was a success. Ali had a defensible space display and had more people sign up for assessments.

AFR received \$2,000,000 for fuel work in the watershed. Six to eight hundred acres will be treated before next fire season.

### **Greensprings FD Public Meeting**

A community wildfire preparedness meeting was held at Green Springs Inn on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. It was estimated that over 60 people turned out for the event. There was a great deal of positive feed back received from the event.

### **Wolf Creek Evacuation Planning**

Volunteer Firefighters will be hired to go door to door with address signs, evacuation surveys and evacuation planning information.

Wolf Creek is also purchasing fire danger and evacuation route signs.

### **Animal Evacuation**

In Jackson County, Lin is working with the fair grounds to establish standard operating procedures for large animal sheltering. The SOPs will cover ingress/egress, security, and caring for the animals. SOPs are already in place for companion animals.

In Josephine County, Lin is working with Brad Tally to come up with a similar outline of SOPs for the Josephine County expo.

Lin will be assisting the Williams and Seven Basins communities in animal evacuation planning.

## **Good of the Order**

Neil-Committee is applying for a Western States Fire Manager grant to print a maintaining defensible space/living with wildfire pamphlet.

Sandy-The Solutions for Forests conference will be held October 19-21. This conference covers how to get large scale treatments in the landscape. Tues and Thurs will be classroom time at SOU with Wed out in the field. Register at [solutions4forests.org](http://solutions4forests.org).

Jenny-Josephine County is updating their Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA requires this to apply for different grants.

Tim-Prescribed burning will be taking place beginning the week of Sept 19-24 along the Rogue River, Madison and Griffin Parks.

There was concern expressed on how the media reports on prescribed burning and conflicts with prevention messages.

Brian-Grants Pass will be holding an Open House at the Hillcrest Fire Station October 9. There will be extrication demonstrations, fire and safety information, and activities for children.

Gail-The Jackson/Josephine weed management co-op will be starting a project signing county roads for invasive weed control. The signs will read, "Invasive weeds are your responsibility". The Jackson County Rd Dept will make the signs, maintain, and install them for \$200/sign. They are looking into having the signs adopted to pay for the cost. RVCOG is organizing two river clean up projects, Sept, 25 at the Tolo slew, and Oct, 16<sup>th</sup> at the main Rogue River. Lunch will be provided for volunteers.