

**Jackson & Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan  
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting  
December 17, 2010  
RRFD**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees: Brian Ballou, Brian Pike, Brad Inman, John O'Connor, Neil Benson, Max Bennett, Lin Bernhardt, Sandy Shaffer, & Teresa Burkhart**

**Next O&E Meeting: January 21, 2011, 10-12, Southern Oregon Firewise House (Ashland Parks & Recreation Office, Lithia Park)**

**Note-\*New Meeting time is 10:00am to 12:00pm effective immediately**

**Next RVFP Co-op Meeting: January 12, 2011, 10-12, Hillcrest Station, Grants Pass**

**O&E Title III Budget & applications for the next year**

There is a balance of \$50,000 in both of the Jackson and Josephine Title III grants for the remainder of the year.

Firebrand Newsletter- Brian Ballou suggested we allocate \$30,000 to the Firebrand to publish three volumes at \$10,000 ea before the end of the budget cycle. The Firebrand will be mailed to residents in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Billboards-Ashley DuBrey is looking into renting billboards in higher traffic areas, Redwood Highway, and I-5. These billboards would be more expensive each month, approximately \$1,200-\$1,500/mo, as opposed to \$350-\$400/mo for the billboard on Table Rock Rd.

Ashley and Brian will be looking into ways to measure the effectiveness of the billboards. One possibility is to link nurseries we've partnered with to the billboards, promoting fire resistant plants at the named nursery.

Nurseries-Ashley and Teresa are partnering with the Grange Co-op to have Fire Resistant Plant Displays and information at the local nurseries. John will be doing the same with some nurseries in Grants Pass.

Signs for fire resistant shrubs, ground cover, trees, and annuals will be on display at each nursery. Three sets of four signs will be ordered for each county, and will be interchangeable. The displays should be done by late February.

Brian Ballou will order 5,000 fire resistant plant books from Steve Fitzgerald, at \$0.50/ea, to be available at the nurseries and other events.

Applications- Jackson County will apply for \$250,000/year for a total of two years. Josephine County will apply for \$125,000/year, one year at a time.

## **Public Surveys**

The contract has been signed with SOU for the public surveys.

Greensprings and Ashland residents will receive their survey announcement letters in early January followed by the survey that will be mailed out either the January 14, or 20. Seven Basins and Applegate surveys will be conducted in March.

For Jackson County the total expenditure for the surveys will be under \$30,000, Josephine County will fund \$8,000 for Applegate Valley residents not included in Jackson County limits.

Surveys should be completed by the end of May. SOU has been given June 6, as the deadline for the reports.

Sandy is on the Chief's list in January to implement more communities for the next round of funding.

## **Ongoing Project Updates**

Grants Pass Firewise- Grants Pass has identified eighteen areas in the interface as potential Firewise Community projects. Jenny Zeltvay is confident that there will be enough Title III funds available to hire a firewise coordinator. The Fire Department will present the proposal for the FW grant to the City Council next month. The timetable would include two years of Title III funding.

SB-360- Brian Ballou has scheduled several public meetings in January for the residents affected by the new SB-360 boundaries. ODF staff will be helping with the meetings.

There will be a refresher session on SB-360 for those assisting in the meetings, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am in the Medford ODF crew house. Brian will be sending out an announcement on the Chief's list. Attending this refresher can also qualify, those interested, in becoming an accredited assessor.

Animal Evacuation- Lin is requesting letters of support for continued funding, to be submitted with her application. For those interested in sending a letter, bullet points outlining consideration for continued support have been attached to this email. Please send letters to Mike Curry or Lin, [mailto:Lin Bernhardt \[linb@clearwire.net\]](mailto:Lin.Bernhardt@clearwire.net) by January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lin has met with neighborhood leaders in Seven Basins and will be participating in community meetings in the upcoming spring and summer months. Lin will cover animal evacuation; housing and identification.

Josephine County Oversight Committee is spearheading the Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) and will be presenting it to Jackson County. There are plans to provide DART training over a five county area.

Action Item Updates- Neil needs updates on any action items you've been assigned to in 2010, please contact him as soon as possible so that information can be included in the annual report.

## Coming Events & Good of the Order

New Extension Publication- Max Bennett of the OSU Extension office has released a new publication for forest landowners in the Pacific Northwest, “Reducing Fire Risk on Your Forest Property”. It focuses on fire behavior, the principles of fuel reduction and Oregon fire laws. It can be downloaded for free at:

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/19402>

John O’Connor will be making a postcard sized document with the link to provide as a resource to landowners.

Fire Resistant Privacy Screen Plants- Max requested funding to develop a brochure with pictures listing fire resistant privacy screen plants for the southwest Oregon area. He’s working up a draft format for the brochure and will come up with an estimate, approximately five to ten thousand dollars.

Citizen Fire Academics- Max would like to work with Steve Fitzgerald to develop curriculum and training for region or state wide, citizen fire academics. The target audience would be home owners associations and other community leaders.

Josephine County Stewardship Committee of the Fire Plan- Illinois Valley is planning to get a valley wide assessment, they will strategically get moving on it this year. They are looking for opportunities to partner.

Small Diameter Collaborative-The Small Diameter Collaborative is lobbying in Washington DC for the Dry Forest Franklin Johnson restoration pilot project to be funded in the middle Applegate watershed.

Co-op Conference- RVFP Co-op would like to organize a conference this fall for professionals in the fire service and public education.

Green Leaf Workshop- John will be working with Bob Renolds to offer a free fire resistant plant workshop to be held at the Green Leaf Nursery in Grants Pass, during the third or fourth week of March. They will be partnering with the news media for advertising.

Wildlife Images “Fire Awareness Days”- Wildlife Images is hosting a “Fire Awareness Days” June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. John will be providing support for this event, by bringing the fire safety house and Smokey Bear.

Merlin Parade – John will be participating in this May event. The prevention focus is in response to the recent structure fires.

Josephine County Home Show- There will be an inside fire prevention booth in the pavilion at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Fuel Reduction Maintenance- Sandy, John and Max have formed a committee to make a fuel reduction maintenance document for landowners. Sandy will request involvement from the Risk/Fuels Committee.

Home Assessment Training- Jackson County Fire District #3 had to put off the home assessment training but will reschedule.

OSU-Master Land Steward - Rhianna is coming up with a summary combining last year and this year in volunteer pay back from the Master Land Steward classes. More funds may be requested from Josephine or Jackson Counties for future classes.

Large Scale Treatment- Solutions for Forest had a private meeting with the Secretary of the Interior to discuss the pilot projects planned in Applegate and Myrtle Creek, an article will be released in the Applegator letting the community know what's planned.

Firebrand- Look for the latest edition of the Firebrand Newsletter in January.